8
Delicious in
DUNGEON
RYOKO KUI

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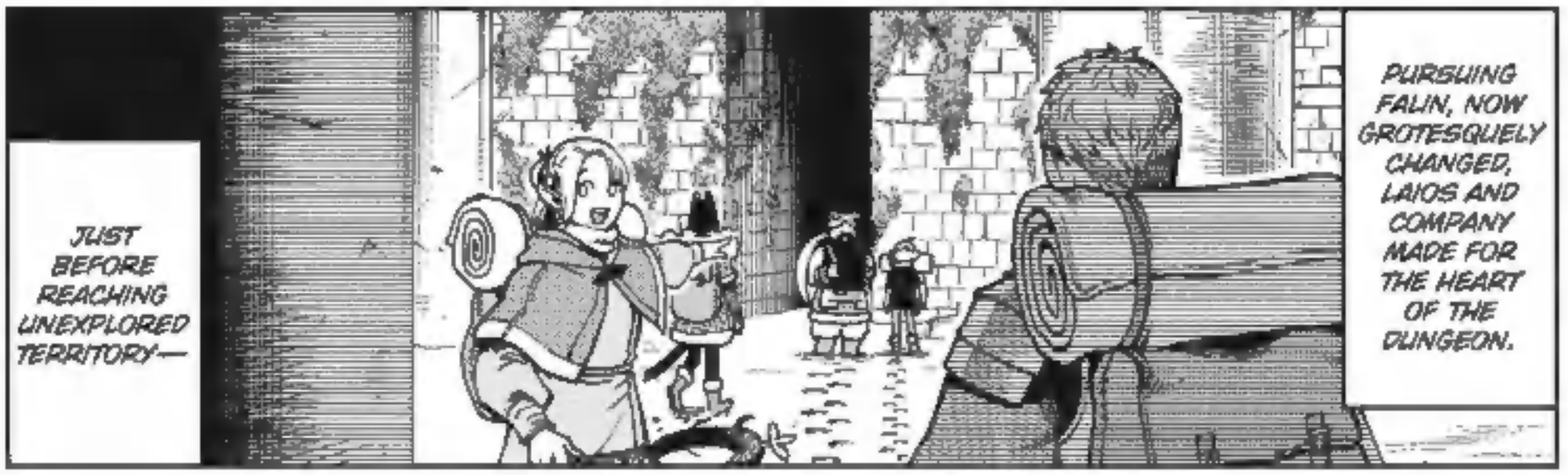

JUST BEFORE REACHING UNEXPLORED TERRITORY—
PURSUING FALIN, NOW GROTESQUELY CHANGED, LAIOS AND COMPANY MADE FOR THE HEART OF THE DUNGEON.

THEY ALL FELL ILL WITH HIGH FEVERS.

GACHI
GACHI
GACHI
GACHI
I CAN'T STOP SWEATING.
I ACHE ALL OVER.
THIS IS...

COLD...
UU.
I MAY NOT MAKE IT...

HOW ARE...
...THE REST OF YOU?

FALIN...
...JUST BECAUSE YOU CALLED MY NAME?
DO YOU THINK I'LL FORGIVE YOU...

NOT FROM FOOD POISONING.
WE CAN'T DIE HERE, THOUGH.

DIDN'T WASH MY HANDS...
BUT WE'LL COOK IT, SO WHATEVER!
A CRAB(?) IN THE NIGHTMARE!?
THIS IS WEIRDLY SLIMY.
WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE BUT FOOD POISON-IIIING?
AFTER ALL, WE'VE EATEN ALL SORTS OF STUFF.

CHAPTER 50

GUI (WIPE)
OH GOOD.
I WAS AFRAID WE'D—

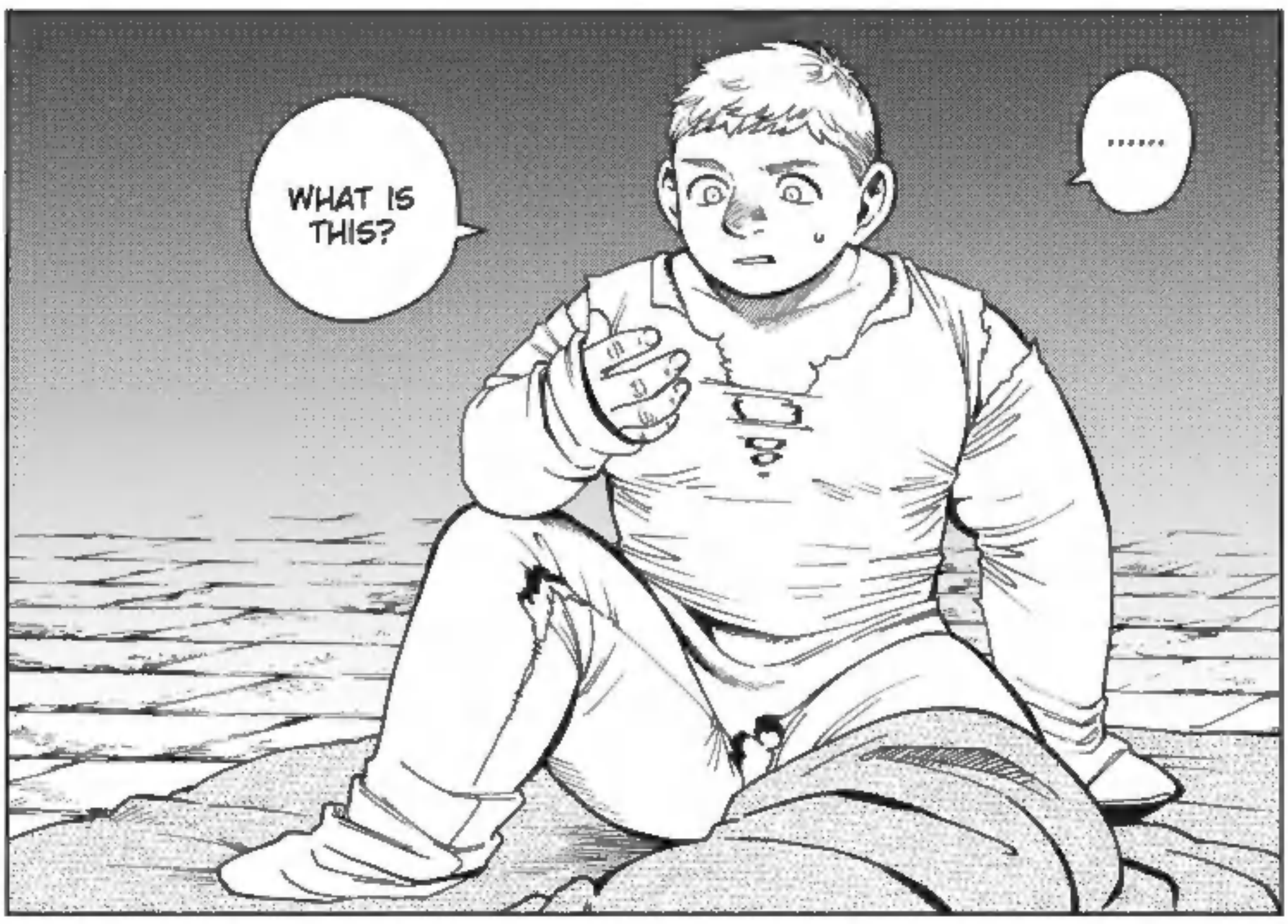
BA (BOLT)
HOW LONG WAS I ASLEEP?
I FEEL LIGHTER...
DID THE FOOD POISON-ING RUN ITS COURSE?

AH!

HM?
PATTSUN (FLOP)
PATTSUN

BI (RIP)
HUH?

UH.

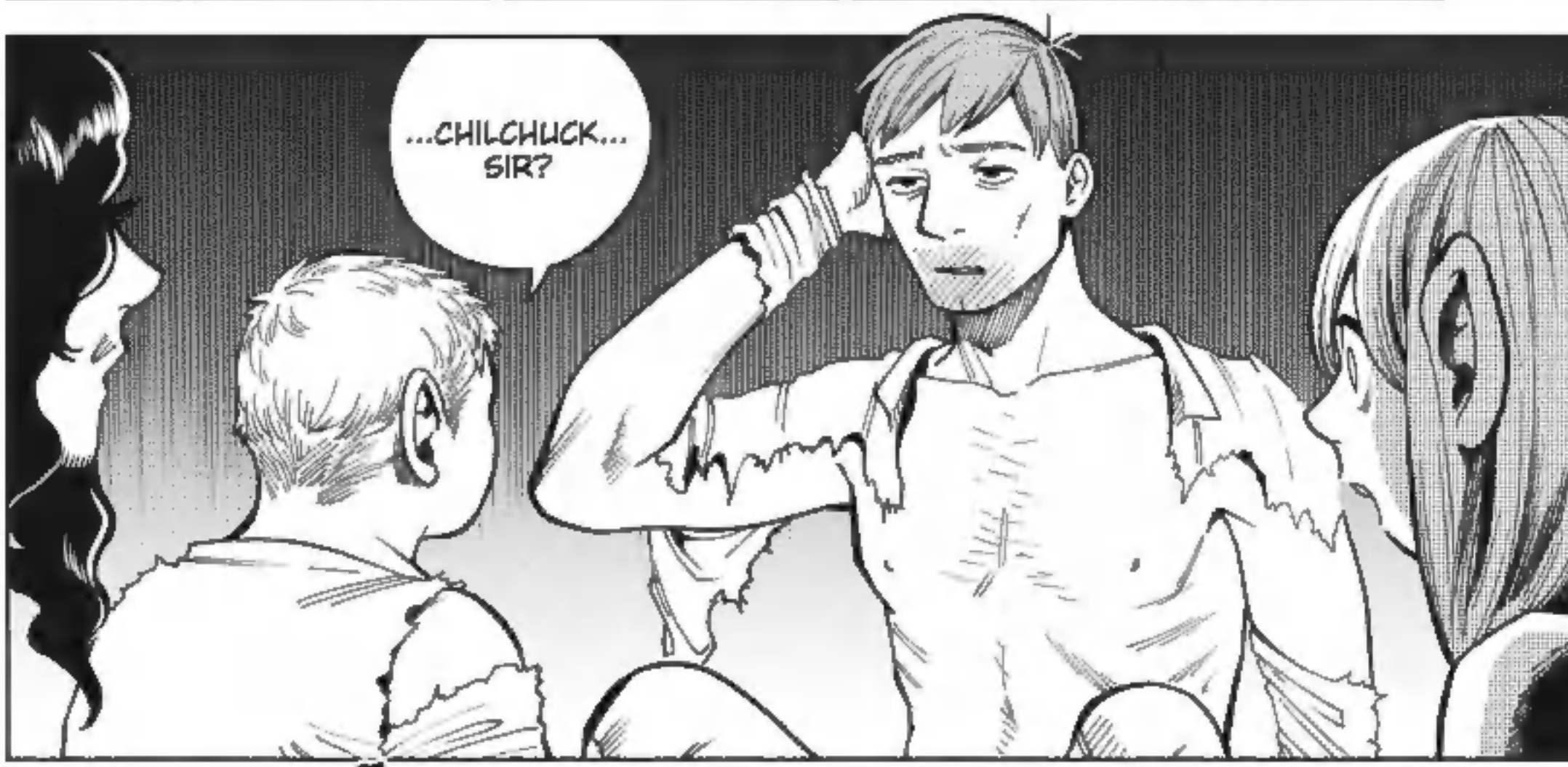

WHAT IS THIS?
.....

NN...
もぞ!!
MOZO (SQUIRM)
OH, MAR-CILLE!
LOOK AT THIS.
DO I LOOK WEIRD TO—
SEN...
ハラリ!!
HARARI (FLUTTER)
SENSHI, TROUBLE! WAKE UP!
YOU SHRANK TOO, MAR-CILLE!?
HA H!?
ACK!

AH!
GUI (SHOVE)
WHAT? GEEZ, PIPE DOWN ALREADY.
CHIL...

DON (WHUMP)

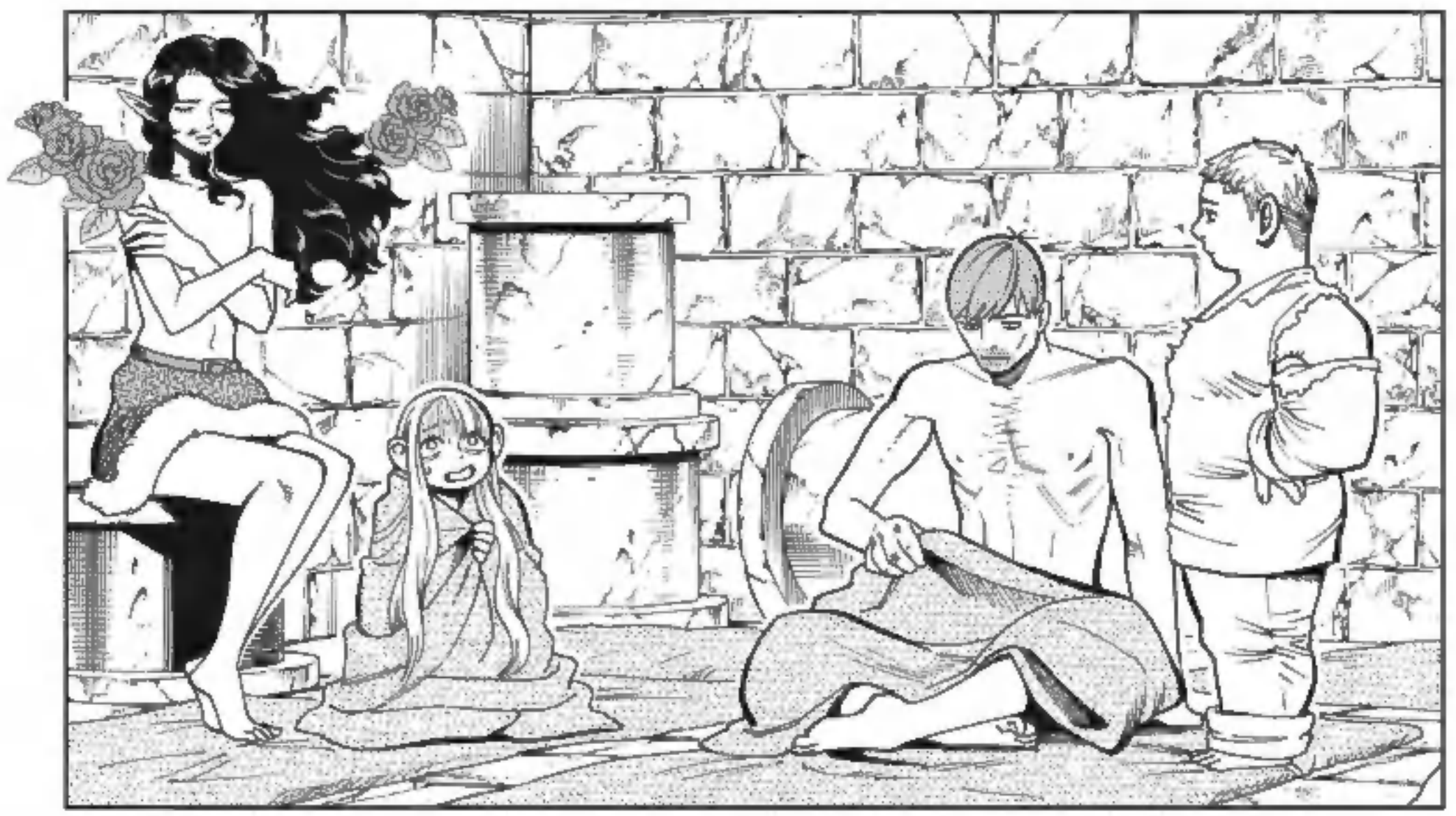
S-S-SEN...!?
WHO... WHO ARE YOU!?


...CHILCHUCK... SIR?

AAAUGH!

WAAGAGH!

EEEEEK!



THEY TURNED A GRIFFIN INTO A HIPPO-GRIFF.
THEY COULD DO THIS TO US.

C-COULD THAT REALLY...?
CHANGE-LINGS? THE MUSHROOMS THAT TURN THINGS INTO SIMILAR SPECIES?

SO I GUESS...
...WE MANAGED TO STEP IN SOME CHANGE-LINGS.

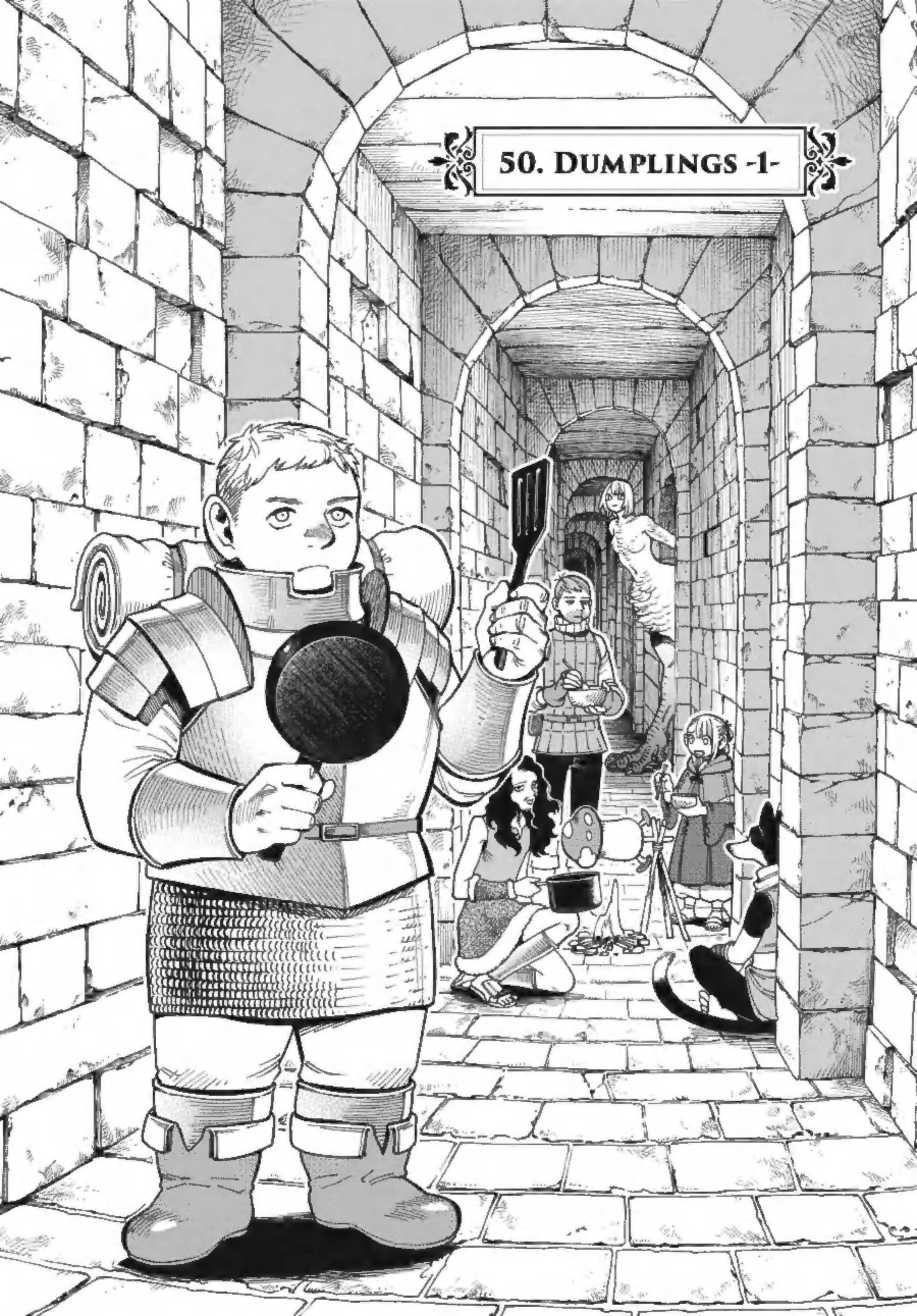
IZUTSUMI'S A...DOG.

...WITH CAT EARS.
NO, I THINK THAT'S A KOBOLD.

CHIL-CHUCK'S A TALL-MAN.

SENSHI IS AN ELF.
MAR-CILLE, YOU'RE A HALF-FOOT?

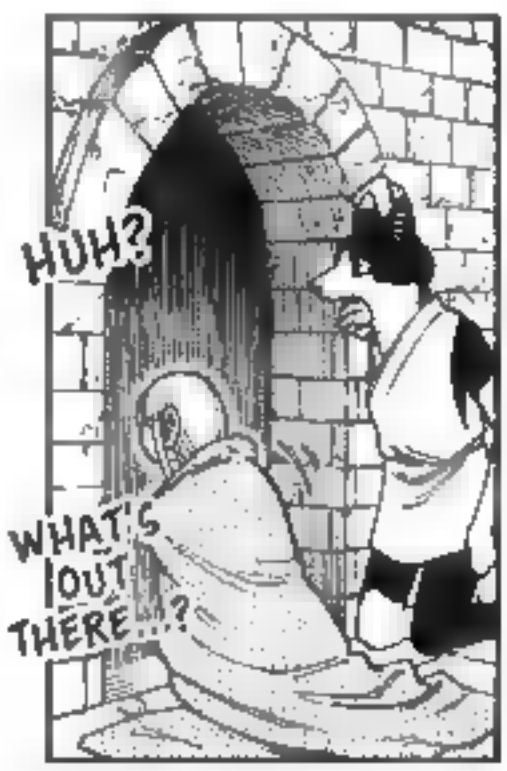
I'M A DWARF NOW.



50. DUMPLINGS -1-

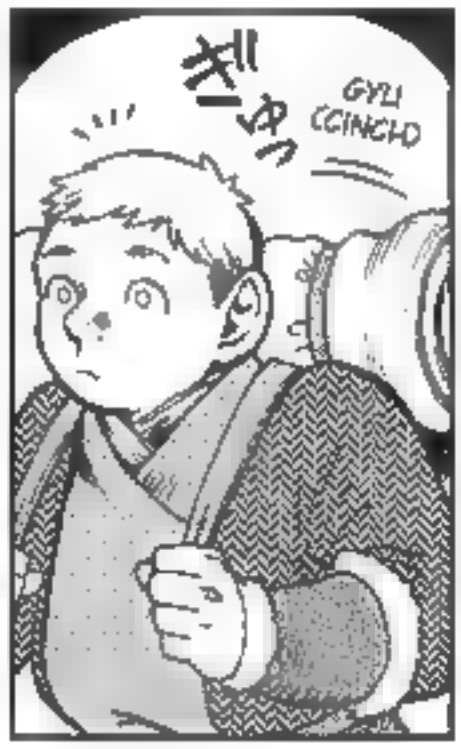
HOW DO WE REVERT TO OUR OLD BODIES?

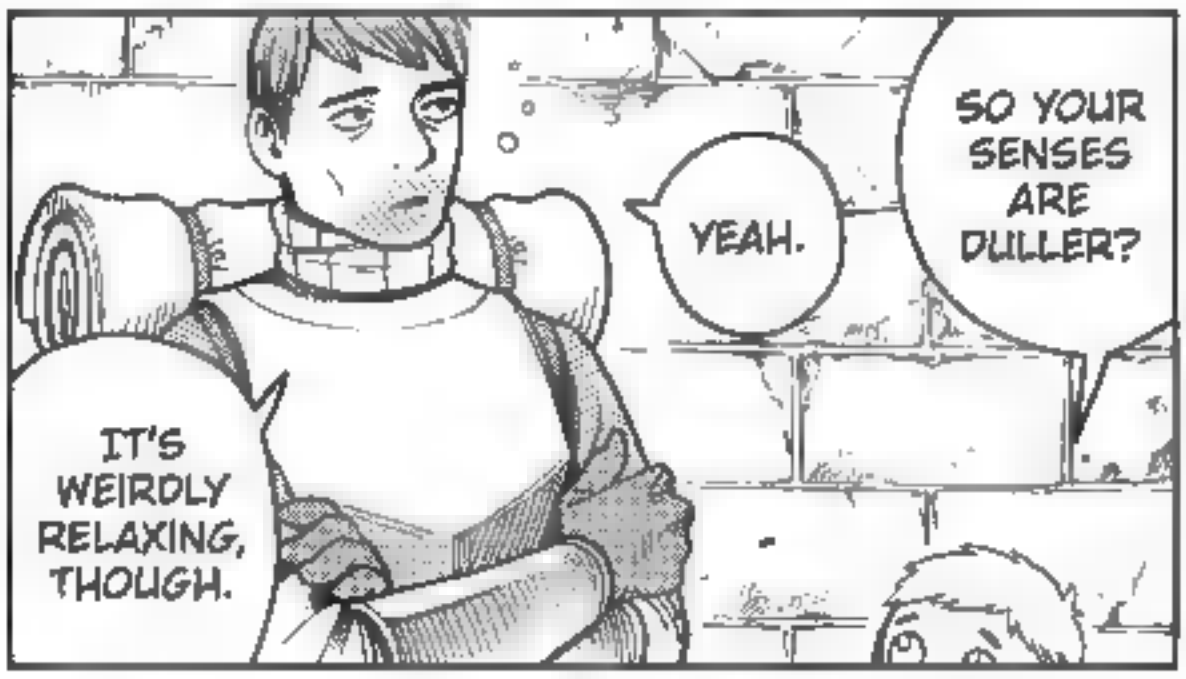
...SO.



I LIKE THIS BODY.
EVEN IN THE DARK, MY VISION'S GOOD.
I BET I COULD BEAT NAMARI AT ARM WRESTLING NOW.

MY PACK IS REALLY LIGHT!
MARCILLE, I'LL CARRY SOME OF YOUR THINGS.
THANKS.

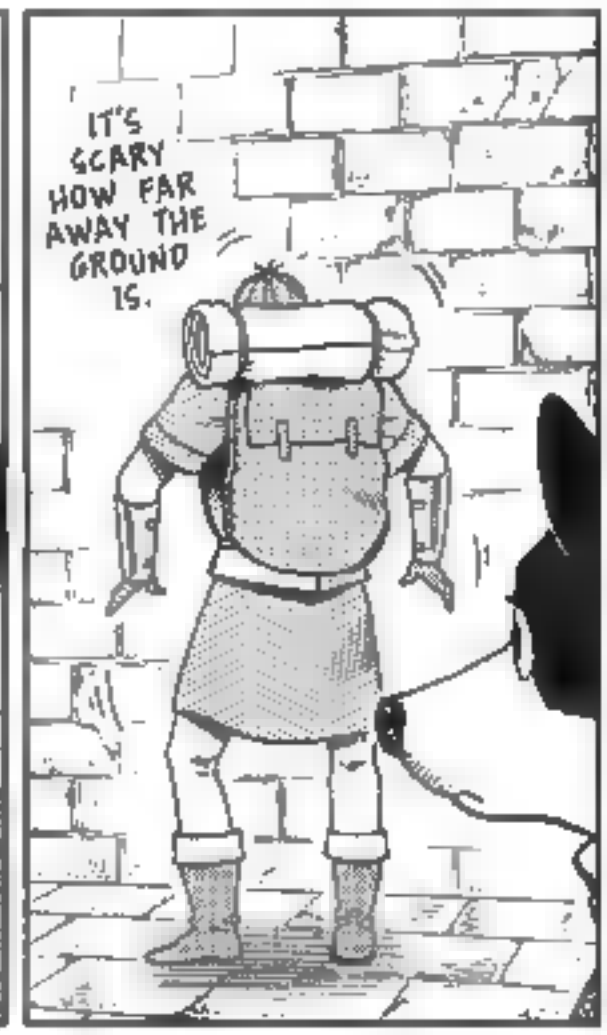

GYU (CINCH)


SO YOUR SENSES ARE DULLER?
YEAH.
IT'S WEIRDLY RELAXING, THOUGH.

WELL. IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO LOOK DOWN ON YOU PEOPLE.
PON (PAT)
PON

HOW DOES IT FEEL BEING A TALL-MAN, CHIL-CHUCK?
HM...
LIKE I'M WRAPPED IN A THICK, HEAVY MEMBRANE.

HEH...
HIS HEARING'S BAD TOO.
NOT BEING DISTRACTED BY LITTLE THINGS IS GOOD.
THAT'S PERFECT FOR SOMEONE HIGH-STRUNG.


IT'S SCARY HOW FAR AWAY THE GROUND IS.

LUCKY YOU. NOBODY'S GOING TO TREAT YOU LIKE A KID NOW.
NOW IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE A THUG.

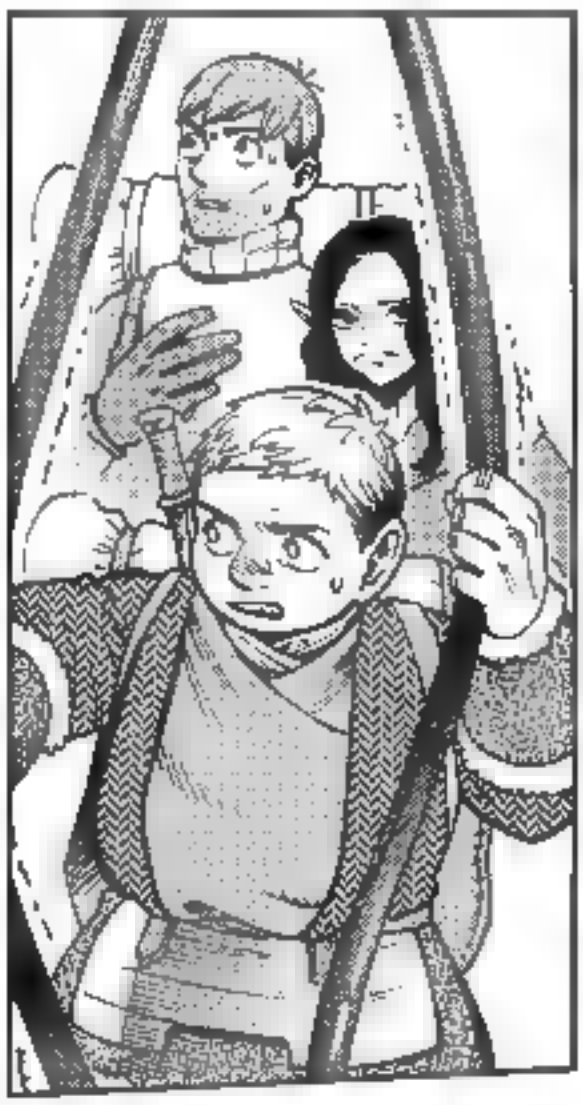
TCH!
IT'S NAUSE-ATING.
...ALL WE WERE DOING WAS TORTURING THE REAL KIDS.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND THOSE MUSHROOMS, THEN.

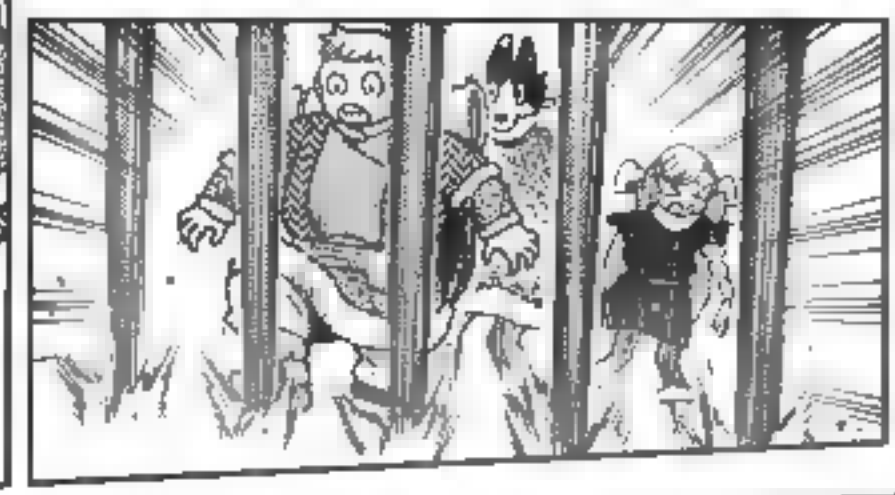
"DRINKING A BUCKET OF WATER WILL TURN THEM BACK."
"BURN THEM TO SHOW THEIR TRUE FORM."
YEAH, WE HAD A TON OF SUPER-STITIONS, BUT...

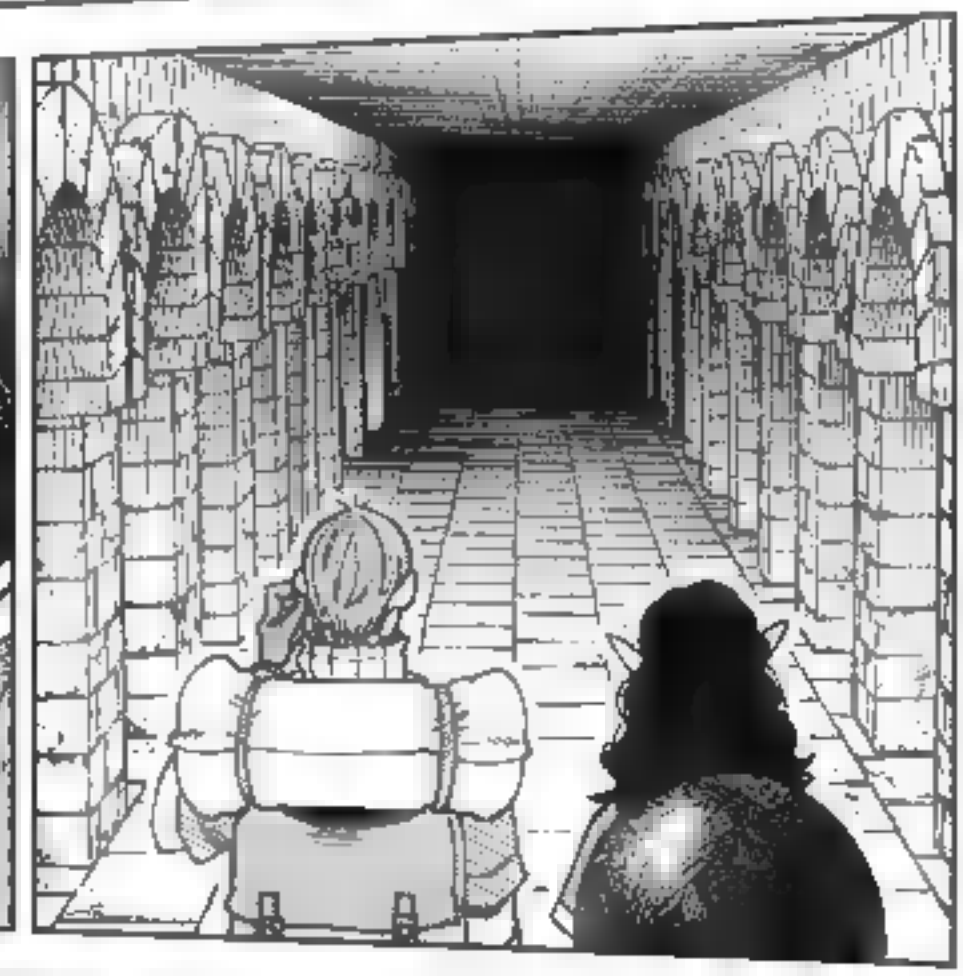
WHAT DID YOUR PEOPLE DO WHEN THEIR CHILDREN WERE SWITCHED WITH TROLLS?
WAS THERE A FOLK REMEDY?
NO REMEDY.

MAYBE THIS?
A TROLL WOULD BE GOOD TOO.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A REAL ONE.
Epic
Rare
Uncommon
.....
Common

IF THEY TURN US INTO SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD OF TURNING US BACK...
.....

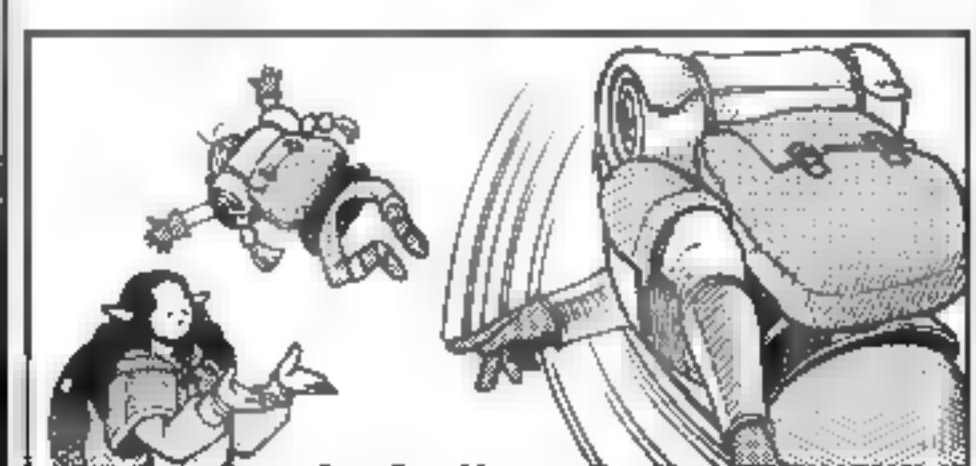


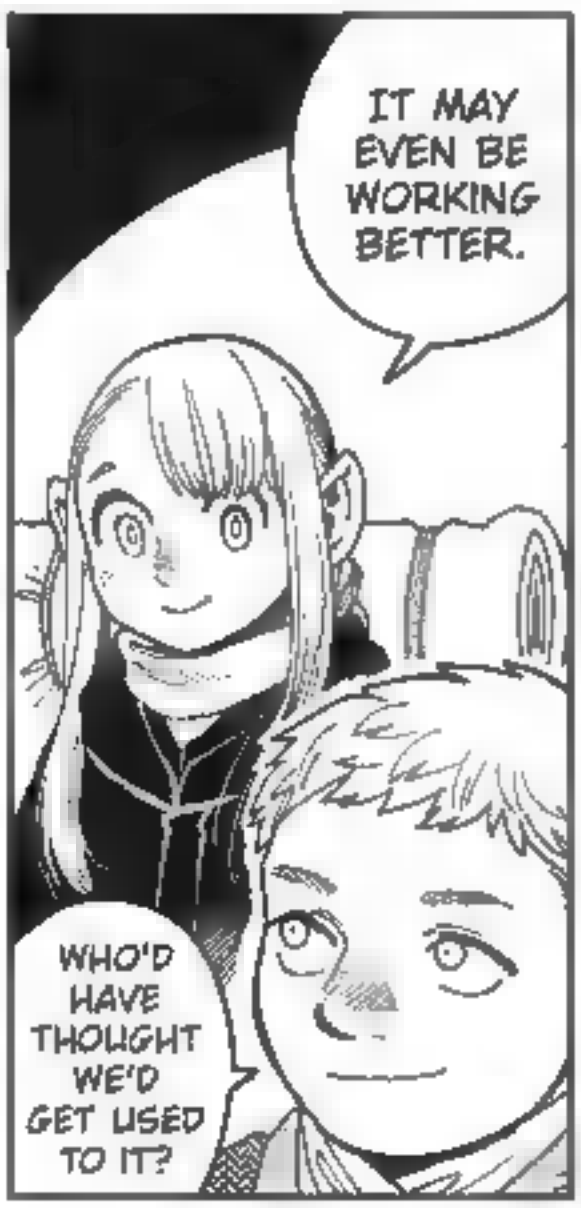




YOU KNOW...

HYOI
OYOINKO




IT MAY EVEN BE WORKING BETTER.
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT WE'D GET USED TO IT?

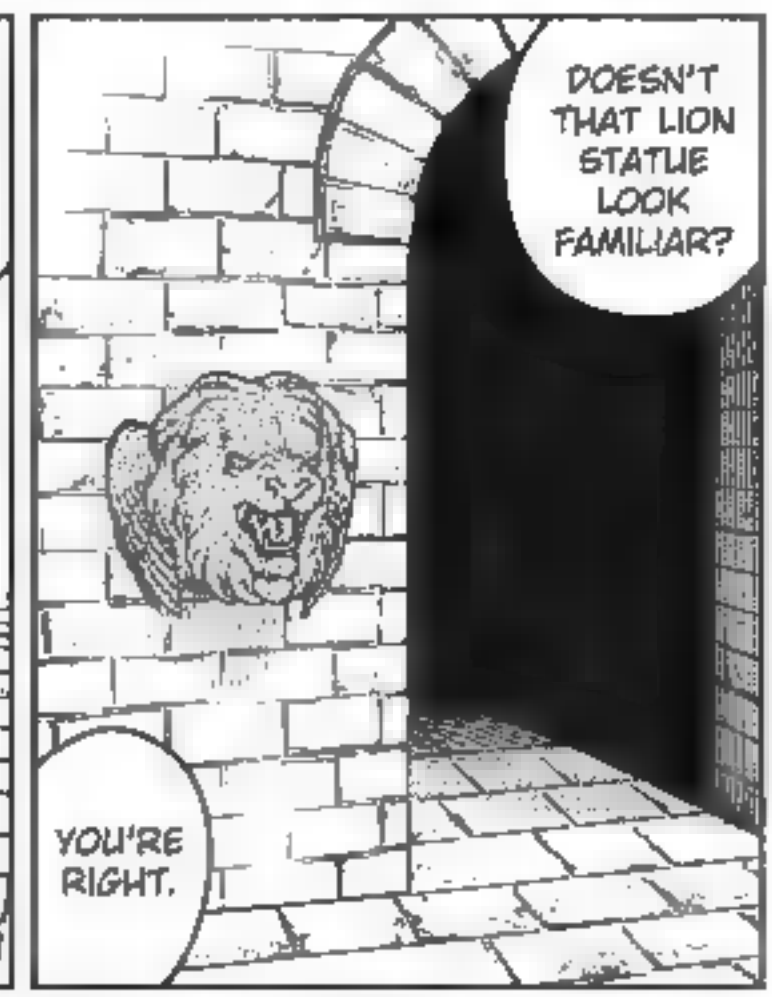
...I WASN'T SURE HOW WE'D MANAGE AT FIRST...
...BUT THIS IS WORKING PRETTY WELL.

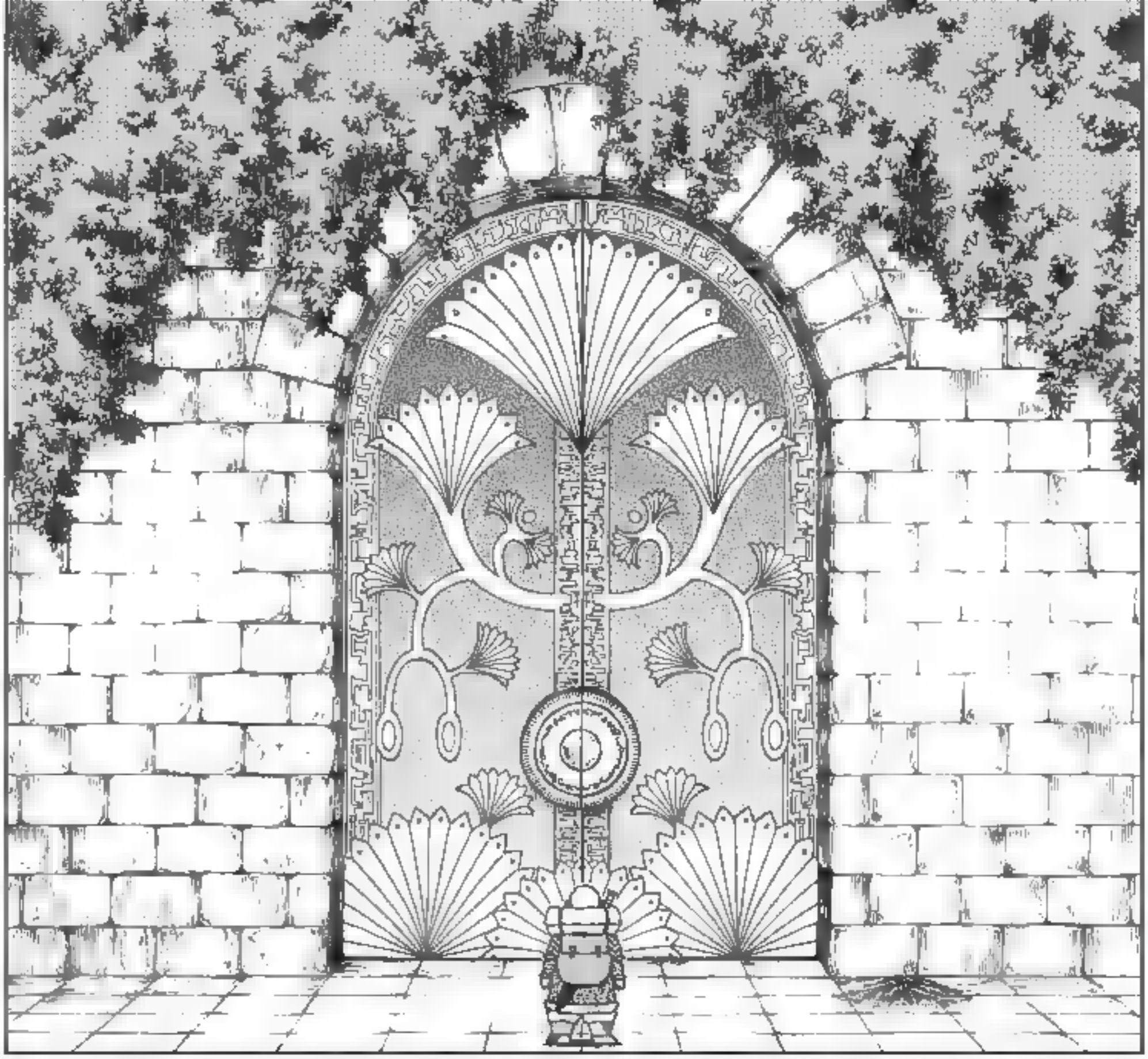
.....
OH.

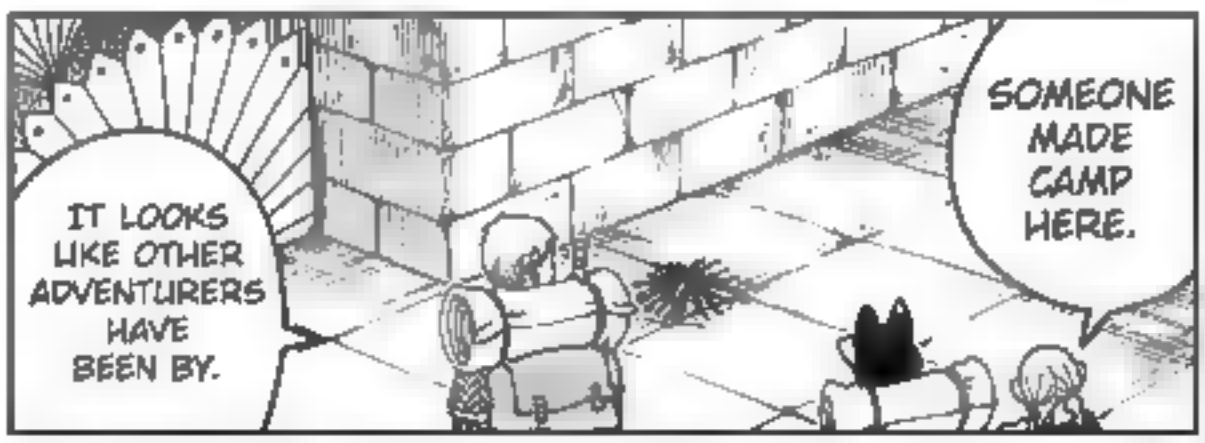
MAYBE ...
FISTILS AND STAMENS ARE...!
THIS GUY'S GOT THE WARMEST FUTON.
YEAH, WELL...
KNOCK IT OFF!
ARE YOU BLUSHING?
AH HA!
GET USED TO...

HUH?
THAT DOOR...

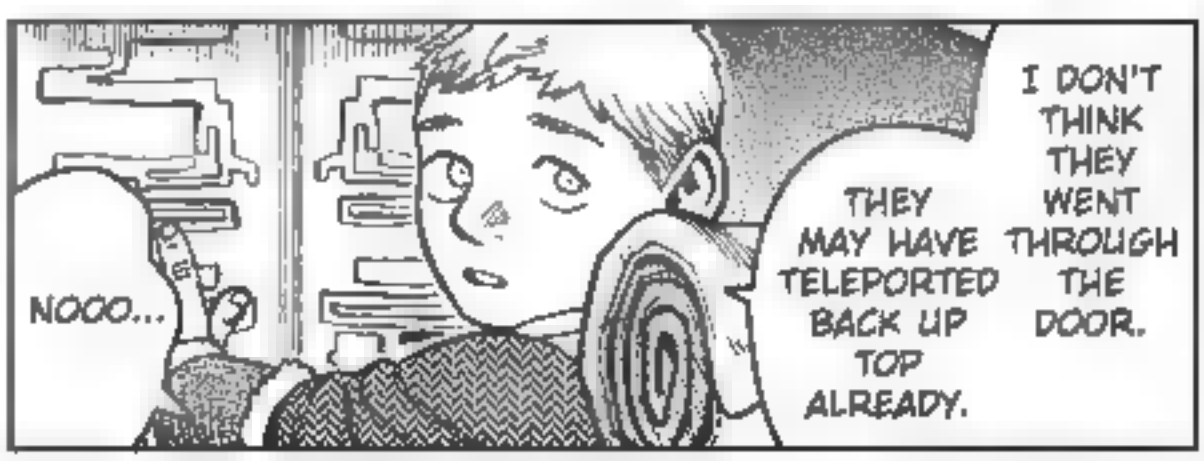
SO IF WE TURN HERE, THEN...?


DOESN'T THAT LION STATUE LOOK FAMILIAR?
YOU'RE RIGHT.




IT LOOKS LIKE OTHER ADVENTURERS HAVE BEEN BY.
SOMEONE MADE CAMP HERE.

MMM...
DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT KNOW HOW TO FIX THIS?


NOOO...
THEY MAY HAVE TELEPORTED BACK UP TOP ALREADY.
I DON'T THINK THEY WENT THROUGH THE DOOR.

THE "HEART," HUH?
AAAAGH! THIS IS WHERE WE WERE HEADED IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
WE TRIED TO GO BACK, BUT WE WENT FORWARD ANYWAY?

...COULD WE JUST KEEP LOOKING FOR THE WINGED LION LIKE THIS?
HUHN!?

WHAT DO WE DO?
I'VE BEEN THINKING...

JUST BECAUSE YOU ENDED UP AS A LONG-LIVED RACE—
YOU MORON !!

I MEAN...
...ONCE WE'RE UP TOP, THERE'LL BE ALL SORTS OF WAYS TO FIX THIS.
I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD STAY LIKE THIS FOR LIFE...

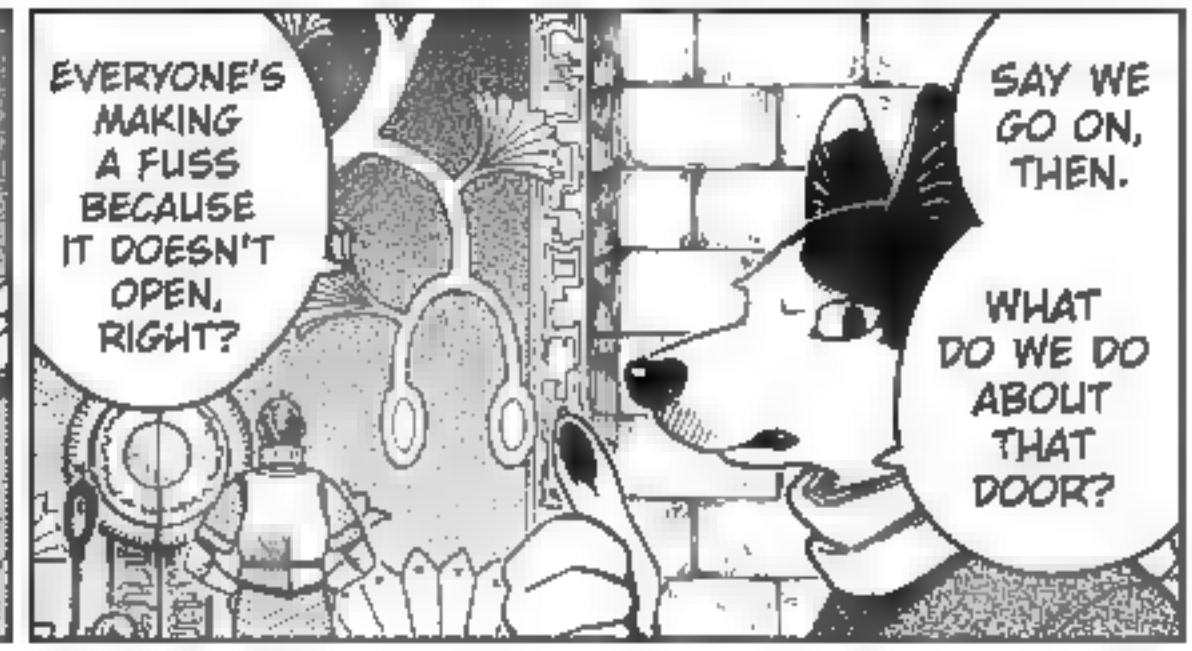
IT LOOKS LIKE THE DUNGEON DOESN'T INTEND TO LET US GO.
RATHER THAN WASTE TIME FIGHTING IT...
...IT WOULD BE FASTER TO GO ON.

.....

IT ACTUALLY HASN'T BEEN INCONVENIENT SO FAR.
HOW MUCH DOES EAR SIZE MATTER?

TRUE...

THINK YOU CAN UNLOCK IT, CHIL-CHUCK?


EVERYONE'S MAKING A FUSS BECAUSE IT DOESN'T OPEN, RIGHT?
SAY WE GO ON, THEN.
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THAT DOOR?

.....

I SENSE MAGIC RUNNING THROUGH IT, BUT...
...I'D NEED TIME, EQUIPMENT, AND MONEY TO DECIPHER IT.

IF IT EVEN HAD A LOCK.
I BET THIS IS MAGIC.

LAIOS, YOU'RE SPROUTING SOME-THING!
HEY!
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!

WHOA! KEN-SUKE !?
NYORO (WRIGGLE)
びくっ
BIKU (FLINCH)

GROWTH?
I JUST ASSUMED THE BITTER COLD HAD KILLED IT...
HAS THAT THING GROWN !?

YAAD! WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS!?
DON (BANG)
DON
HELP US, WINGED LION!
DON

GO (RUMBLE)
THE DOOR...
SHURU (SLITHER)
SHURU
SHURU

WINGED LION OR YAAD!!
THANK YOU!

IT MIGHT BE YAAD.
WE'D BETTER THANK THEM, JUST IN CASE.
DOES THIS MEAN THE WINGED LION'S HELPING US?

HM!?
UP THERE!
DID SOMETHING JUST MOVE!?
GASA (RUSTLE)

GAR-GOYLES!
WHOA!
HERE THEY COME!
SHURURU (SHWRL)

THOSE TURN UP A LOT IN NEWLY DISCOVERED DUNGEONS.
HAVEN'T SEEN THOSE IN A WHILE.
WELL, THIS SHOULDN'T BE A TOUGH FIGHT.

I'LL GET OUT OF THEIR WAY.
SA (FWIP?)
EITHER WAY, THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO.

GARGOYLES ARE WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE — STONE STATUES THAT MOVE.
IF WE HIT THEM, WE'LL BE HURT, SO BE CAREFUL.

LIKE I CAN!?
THAT'S —

BECAUSE YOU STAND OUT THE MOST!
GET BACK HERE AND FIGHT, STRETCH!

WHA —!?
WHY'S IT FOL-LOWING ME!?

BO (BUAM)

BATAN (FWUMP)
MAR-CILLE!?

...HWIT?
ぶっ BU (SPLIT)
GUNYA (SWOON)

IT'S OKAY! IT WASN'T A DIRECT—
シュウ SHUU (FWISH)
CHIL-CHUCK !!

DOKUN (BADMP)
HFF!
HFF!
DOKUN
HFF!
DOKUN

NOT GOOD.
IZUTSUMI, GO PROTECT CHILCHUCK...

E-EVERY-THING'S ALL RAIN-BOWS...
RAIN-BOWS...
MANA SICK-NESS!? FROM JUST ONE SHOT!?
DOKU! (THROB) DOKU

IF SHE STARTS FIGHTING, SHE WON'T STOP UNTIL SHE DIES.
THE NOISE AND THE SMELL OF BLOOD HAVE HER ALL WOUND UP.
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!

BA (PWP)
"STAY"!
IZU-TSUMI, NO!
STAY PUT UNTIL I SAY SO!

.....
BECAUSE IT WAS HEAVY?

SENSHI! GET THE POT—
SENSHI AND I WILL JUST HAVE TO HANDLE THIS OUR-SELVES.

WHY ARE YOUR HANDS EMPTY?
...SENSHI?

HAHAHA
HOW DO I PUT IT...?
ONLY...
LIKE THIS, I CAN WIN BY MYSELF.
THE SWORD AND POT ARE MUCH LIGHTER THAN USUAL.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BUY IT?
AAAAH! FULL PLATE ARMOR. NICE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, MOST DWARFS WEAR LIGHT EQUIPMENT.
IS THIS WHY!?
SITS DOWN RIGHT AWAY
RIGHT?
LEFT?
!!
DO (BADUM)
THIS BODY...
...GETS REALLY TIRED!!

GO GET IT!!

CHIRIRIRIIIN

WAAAH!

CHIRIN (JINGLE)

IZU-TSUMI!

SEE THIS BELL?

OH NO. WE'RE GOING TO LOSE.

EVERY-BODY, RUN FOR IT!!

SENSHI, TAKE MARCILLE AND GET THROUGH THE DOOR.

"GRK!

SHUT UP...

WAAAH!

CHIRI RI

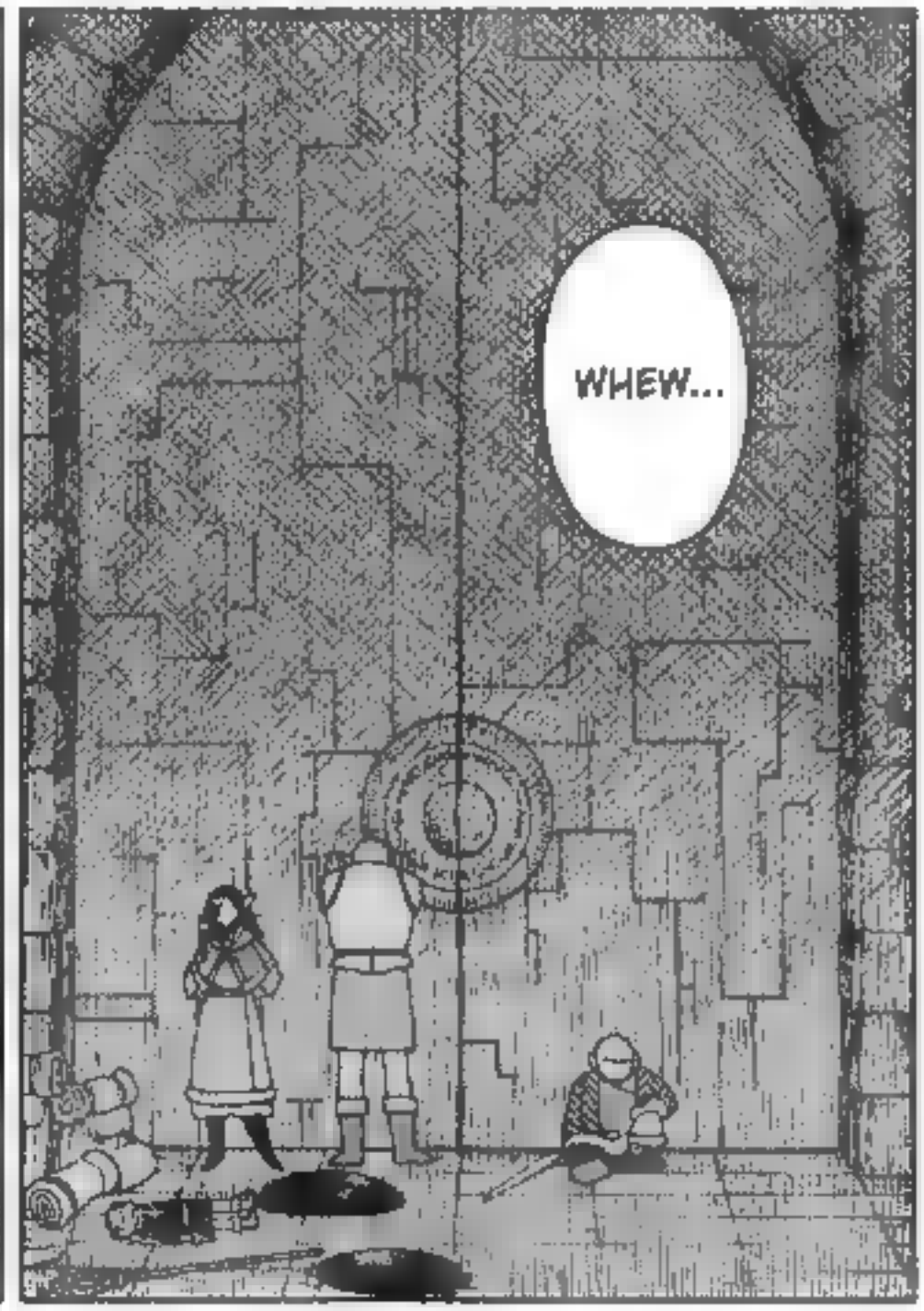
NOW RUN!

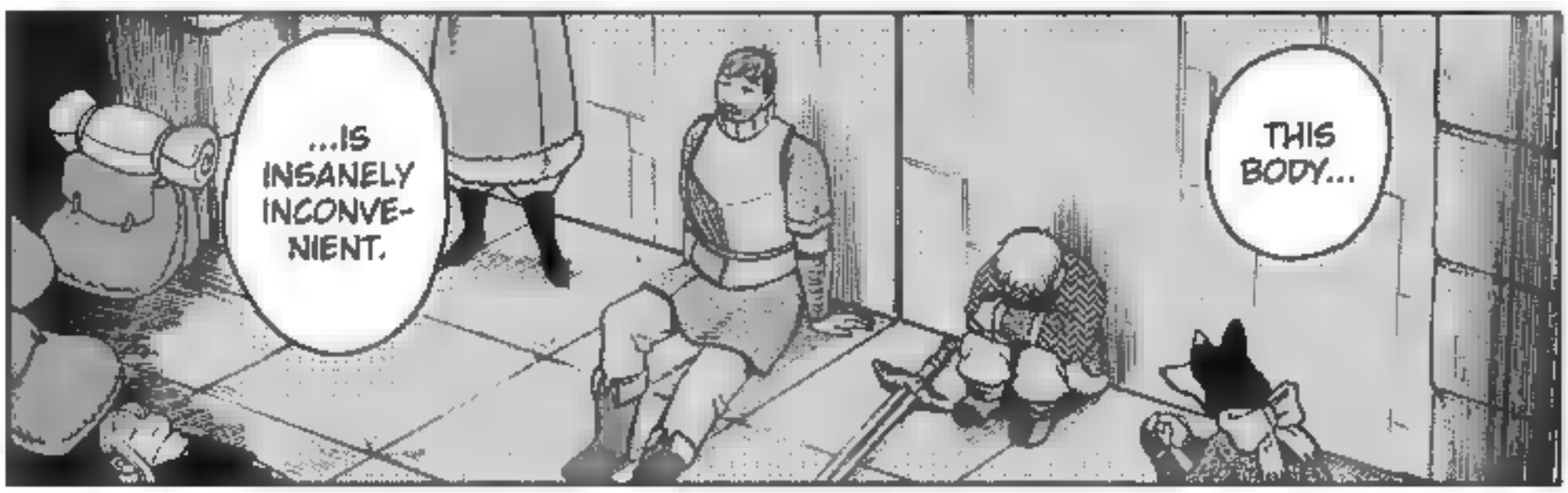
CHIL-CHUCK, CAN YOU RUN!?

TAKE THIS POT LID!

BA
(LUNGE)
GU
GU
(PUSH)
GU
GO
ゴ
ゴ
GO
(CRUMBLE)
GO
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ
ズ
ZUN
(WHUD)

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

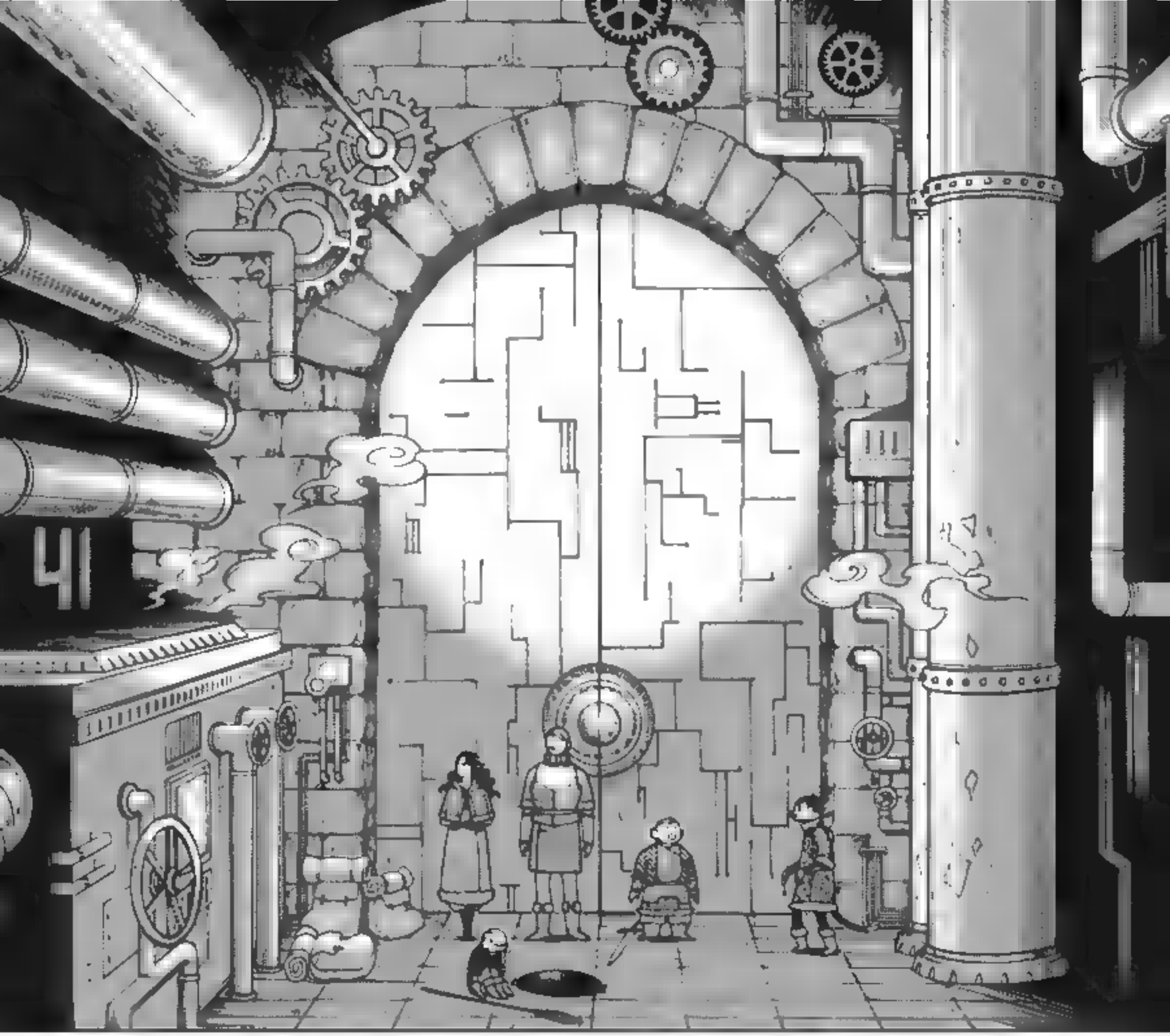

WHEW...


...IS INSANELY INCONVE-NIENT.
THIS BODY...

PA (FLARE)
PA

MARCILLE, CAN YOU GET US SOME LIGHT? SORRY.
Y... YEAH.

THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT.
WE'VE DONE SOMETHING WE CAN'T FIX.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PRAY WE FIND SOME OF THOSE MUSHROOMS UP AHEAD.
IT'S HARD TO HUG MY KNEES IN THIS BODY.



LET'S MAKE SOMETHING TO EAT.

HWOO...

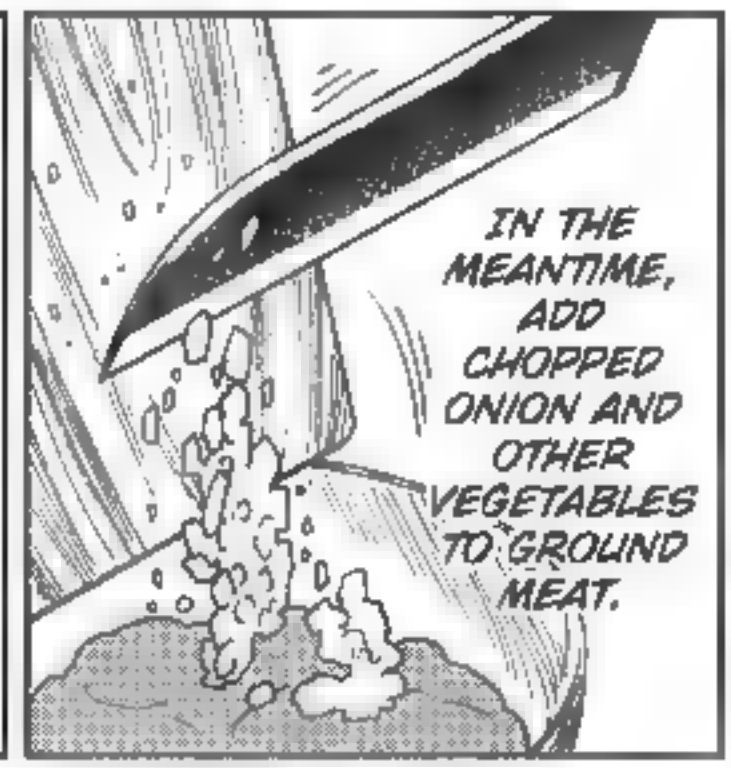
W-WILL THOSE MUSHROOMS GROW IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
IT'S A GENUINE DWARF RELIC...
.....
IT'S REALLY HOT.

I NEVER SAW NAMARI START COOKING OUT OF NOWHERE, THOUGH.
GYUU (GURGLE)
THIS BODY GETS HUNGRY IN THE EXTREME.
HOT...

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY SENSHI ALWAYS STARTS COOKING ALL OF A SUDDEN.

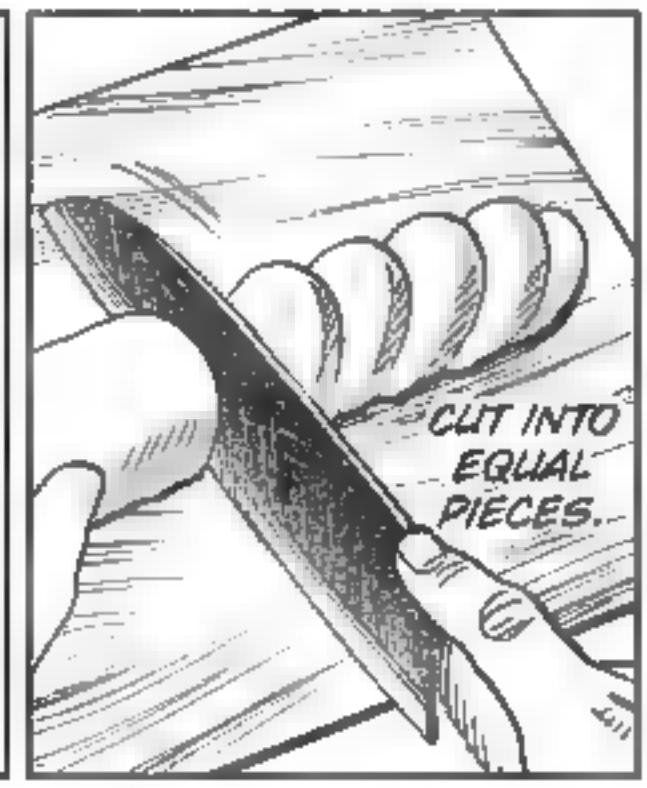
COOKING IS THE PERFECT AID FOR SELF-REFLECTION.
HEH.

MIX WELL.

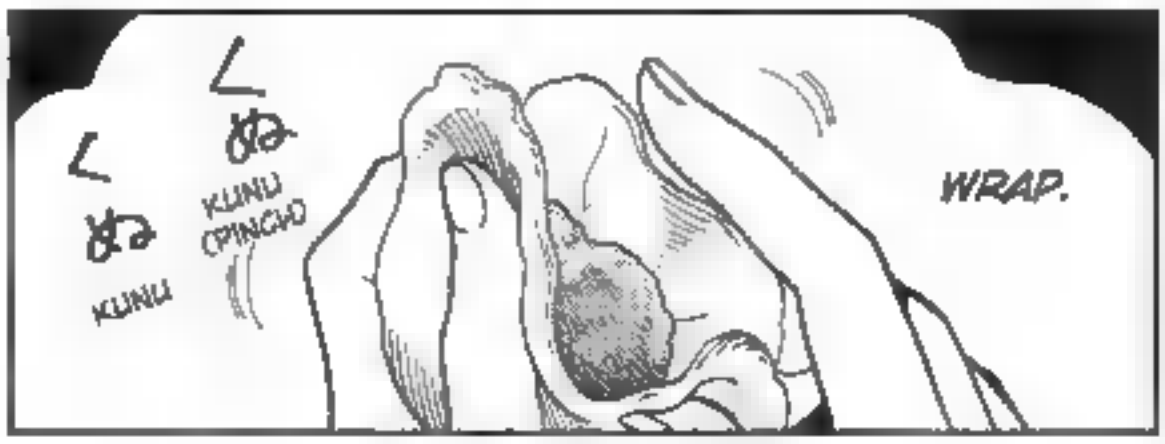

IN THE MEANTIME, ADD CHOPPED ONION AND OTHER VEGETABLES TO GROUND MEAT.

MIX WHEAT FLOUR, WATER, SALT, AND EGG. KNEAD WELL, THEN LET REST.
ZZZ...

HEY, WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT?
ROLL INTO THIN DISCS.
THAT'S DIRTY.


CUT INTO EQUAL PIECES.

FORM THE RESTED DOUGH INTO A LOG.


KUNU
KUNU
(PINCH)
WRAP.

KUNU

キュッ
(TIGHT)
OHHH...

PUT THE FILLING ON THE ROLLED-OUT DOUGH, THEN WRAP IT.

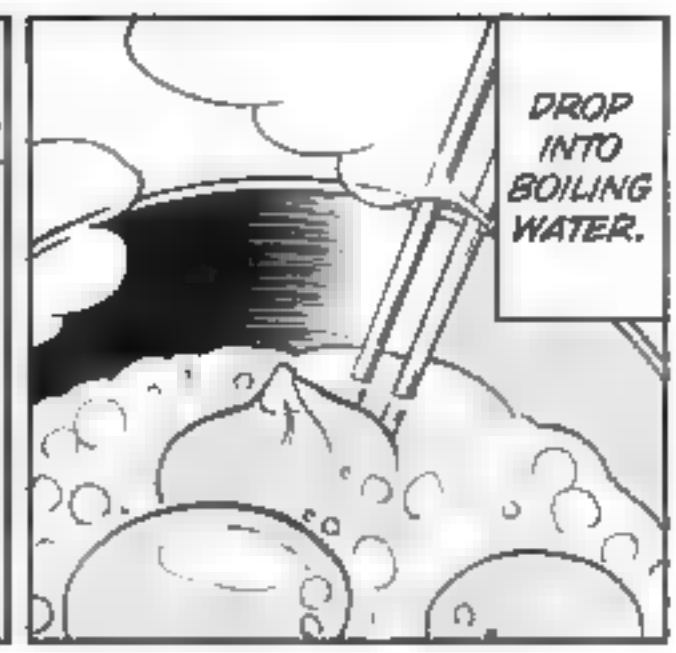
IF WE DIVIDE THEM OVER A FEW MEALS, THEY'LL BE GONE IN NO TIME.
I THINK WE MADE TOO MANY.

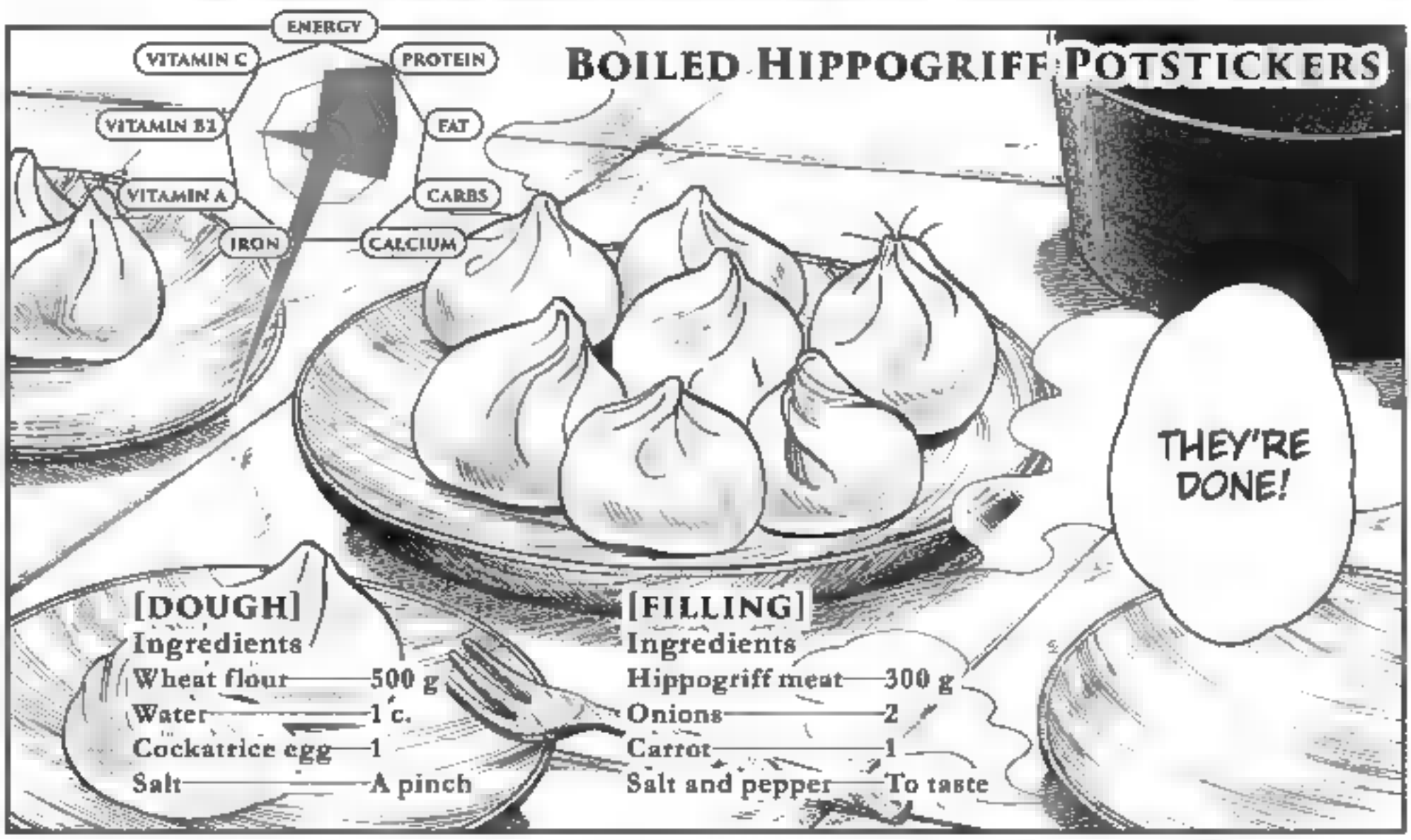
HOW STRANGE...
WORKING IN SILENCE...
...IS HELPING CALM DOWN.

THAT CAME OUT PRETTY.

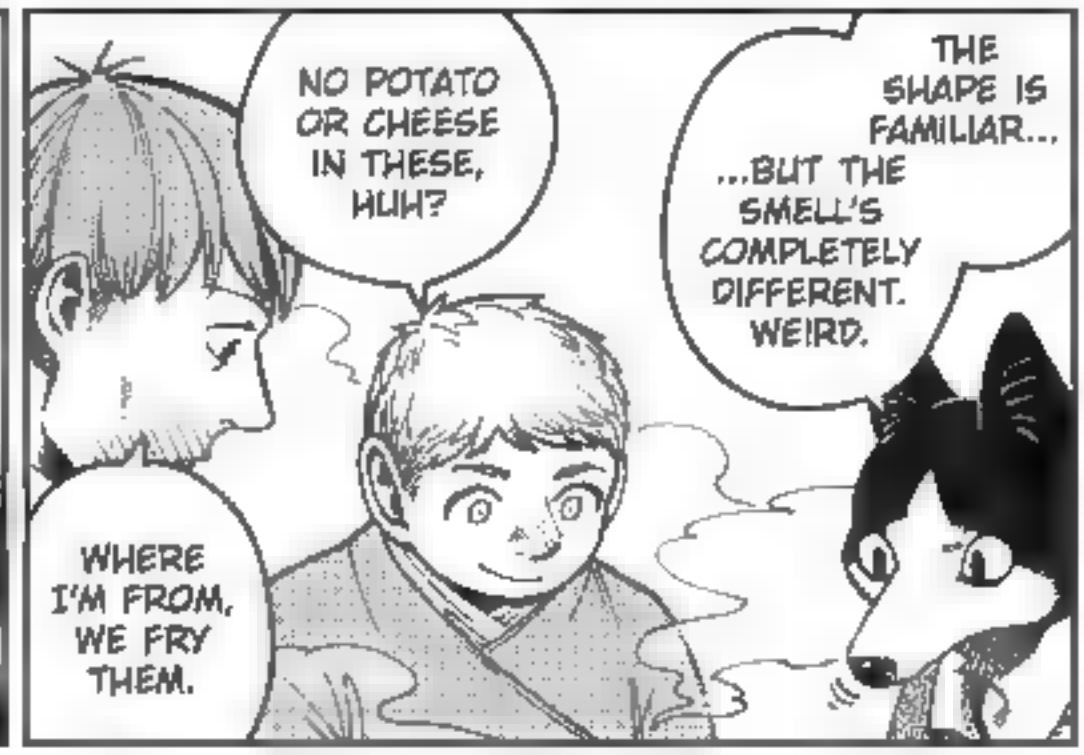
ADD BLACK PEPPER, AND...

PUKAA (BOB)
ONCE THEY FLOAT, WAIT TWO TO THREE MINUTES, THEN TAKE THEM OUT.


DROP INTO BOILING WATER.


BOILED HIPPOGRIFF POTSTICKERS
ENERGY
VITAMIN C
PROTEIN
VITAMIN B1
FAT
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON
CALCIUM
THEY'RE DONE!
[DOUGH]
Ingredients
Wheat flour 500 g
Water 1 c.
Cockatrice egg 1
Salt A pinch
[FILLING]
Ingredients
Hippogriff meat 300 g
Onions 2
Carrot 1
Salt and pepper To taste

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!

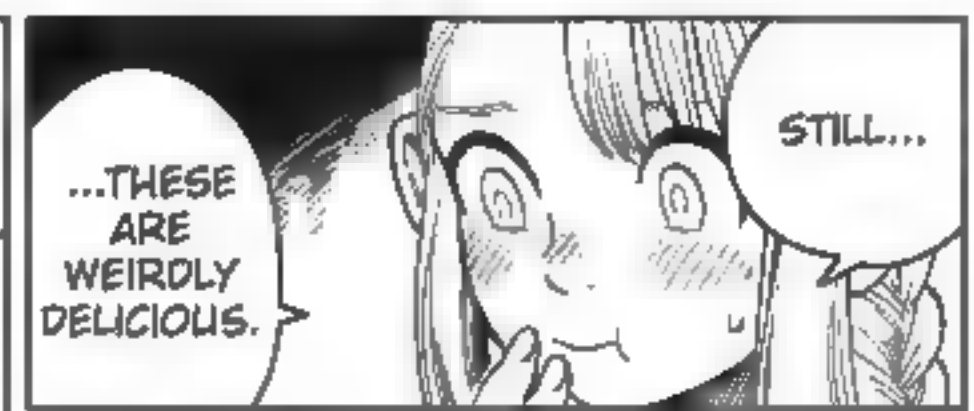

NO POTATO OR CHEESE IN THESE, HUH?
THE SHAPE IS FAMILIAR...
...BUT THE SMELL'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. WEIRD.
WHERE I'M FROM, WE FRY THEM.

SLURP
A SENSITIVE CAT'S—NO, DOG'S TONGUE?

SAY SO SOONER!
CARE-FUL.
DON'T BURN YOURSELF.

BUSHU (SPLURT)
7½"
UUI

IT'S STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
EVERY REGION AND RACE MAKES THEIR DUMPLINGS DIFFERENTLY, AND YET...
...IN THE END, THEY'RE ALL TASTY.


...THESE ARE WEIRDLY DELICIOUS.
STILL...

NO, ANYBODY WOULD THINK THESE ARE GREAT.
THEY'RE CHEWY...
DO RACIAL DIFFER-ENCES AFFECT TASTE TOO?

WELL. THAT WRAPS THINGS UP NEATLY, HUH?
HOW ABOUT THAT?
ONLY IN YOUR HEAD.

IT'S JUST LIKE US NOW.
EVEN IF THINGS CHANGE A BIT, WE'RE STILL US.
WE'LL MAKE IT WORK.

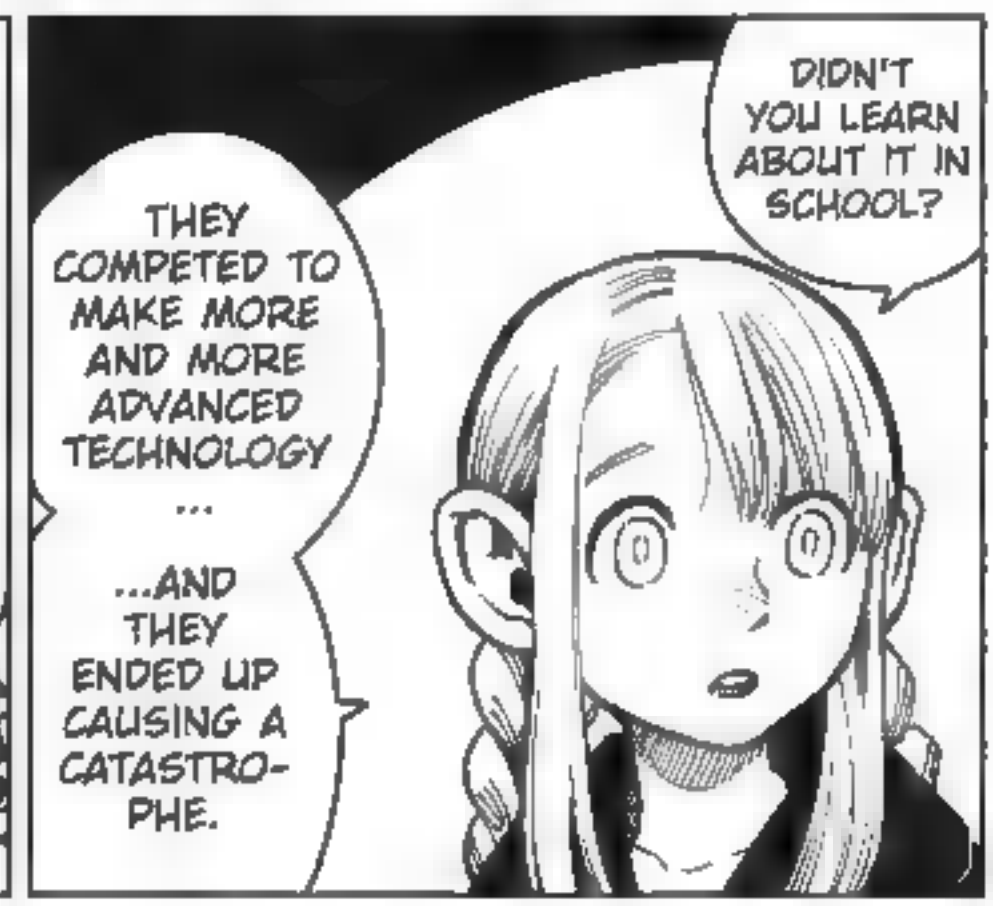
RIGHT...
THAT'S RIGHT.

FORTI-FIED...
FROM WHEN THE ELVES AND THE DWARFS WERE AT WAR.

IT'S PROBABLY A FORTIFIED POSITION THE DWARFS BUILT.
YOU COME ACROSS THIS STUFF FROM TIME TO TIME.
CHUU (SLURP)

THAT ASIDE, THIS PLACE IS ODD.
I WONDER WHAT IT WAS.

BUT IT CAME OUT OF MY FIELD...
CONFISCATED!
DANGER!
BUT I PAID FOR THAT...
LOTS OF ELF AND DWARF RELICS STILL SLEEP IN DUNGEONS, BUT...
...THEY WORRY HISTORY WILL REPEAT ITSELF...
...AND BOTH ELVES AND DWARFS ARE PRICKLY ABOUT TECHNOLOGY IN THE DUNGEON.


DIDN'T YOU LEARN ABOUT IT IN SCHOOL?
THEY COMPETED TO MAKE MORE AND MORE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ...
...AND THEY ENDED UP CAUSING A CATASTRO-PHE.

YOU SAID YOUR MOM WORKED AT COURT. DON'T YOU HAVE CONNEC-TIONS?
TH-THAT'S...

IF WE GET ■ TROUBLE WITH THE ELVES, YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
HUH!? WHY ME?

YEAH, ABOUT THAT.
IT MAY ALREADY BE HAPPENING...
IN THIS DUNGEON ESPECIALLY, THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RACES WAS INTENSE...
...SO WHEN THE ELVES DO STEP IN, I BET THERE'LL BE QUITE A TO-DO.

BA
(FLIP)

IF ANYONE NEGOTIATES WITH THE ELVES, IT'LL BE SENSHI.
EITHER WAY, SHE'S A HALF-FOOT RIGHT NOW.

...I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
WE REALLY SHOULD KEEP LOOKING FOR A WAY TO TURN BACK.
AGREED.

	TALL-MAN	ELF	HALF-FOOT	DWARF	GNOME
LAIOS					
MARCILLE					
CHILCHUCK					
SENSHI					
IZUTSUMI					

51. DUMPLINGS -2-

SUTA (STRIDE)
スタ
SUTA
スタ
もた
もた
MOTA

ZUBE (SPLAT)
がっ
GA (CLONK)

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR ACTUAL AGES AND HOW OLD WE LOOK?

THESE BODIES...

ABOUT SIXTY?

26 !?

AND HOW OLD DOES HE LOOK TO YOU, SENSHI?

TWENTY-SIX.

LAIOS, HOW OLD ARE YOU?

OR WILL IT MATCH OUR BODIES NOW?

...I'M CURIOUS ABOUT REMAINING LIFE.

WILL WE AGE AT THE SAME RATE WE DID BEFORE?

AGE 65

AGE 26

IF OUR ACTUAL AGES AFFECT OUR LOOKS, THEN...

WELL, DWARFS DO LIVE TWO AND A HALF TIMES AS LONG AS TALL-MEN.

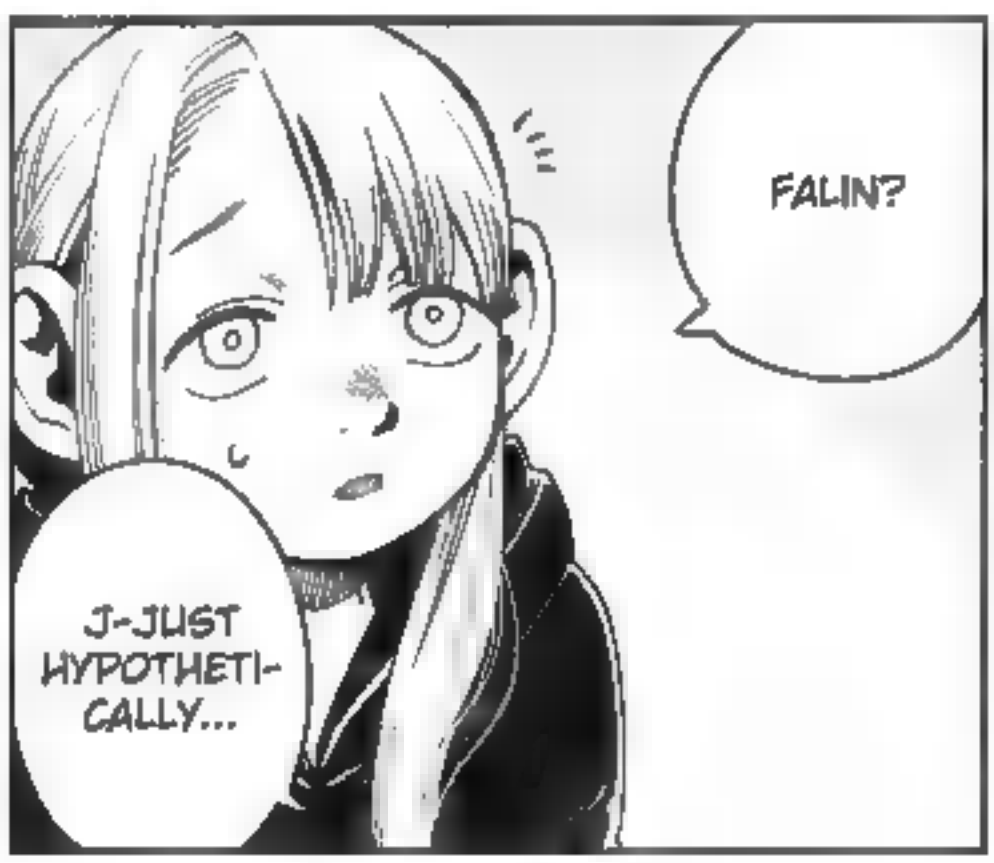
...ON AVERAGE, WE HALF-FOOTS LIVE FIFTY YEARS.
IN LESS THAN FORTY YEARS, YOU'LL GET ALL WRINKLY AND DIE!!
BUT IF IT'S THE LATTER...
MARCILLE, YOU DON'T SEEM TO THINK IT'S ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
WHAT!?
MARSHRIVELED
ZOWA (SHUDDER)
SHE GOT QUIET.
ONLY A FEW.
SOME DO, BUT...
I THOUGHT YOU LIVED TO AT LEAST A HUNDRED!
YOUR LIVES ARE THAT SHORT !?
TALL-MEN LIVE TO SIXTY OR SO.

...BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THOSE MUSHROOMS AT THE MARKET.
TONS OF PEOPLE WOULD PAY A FORTUNE TO BECOME A DIFFERENT RACE...

SO EITHER THE CHANGE IS TEMPO-RARY...
...OR THERE ARE NASTY SIDE EFFECTS.

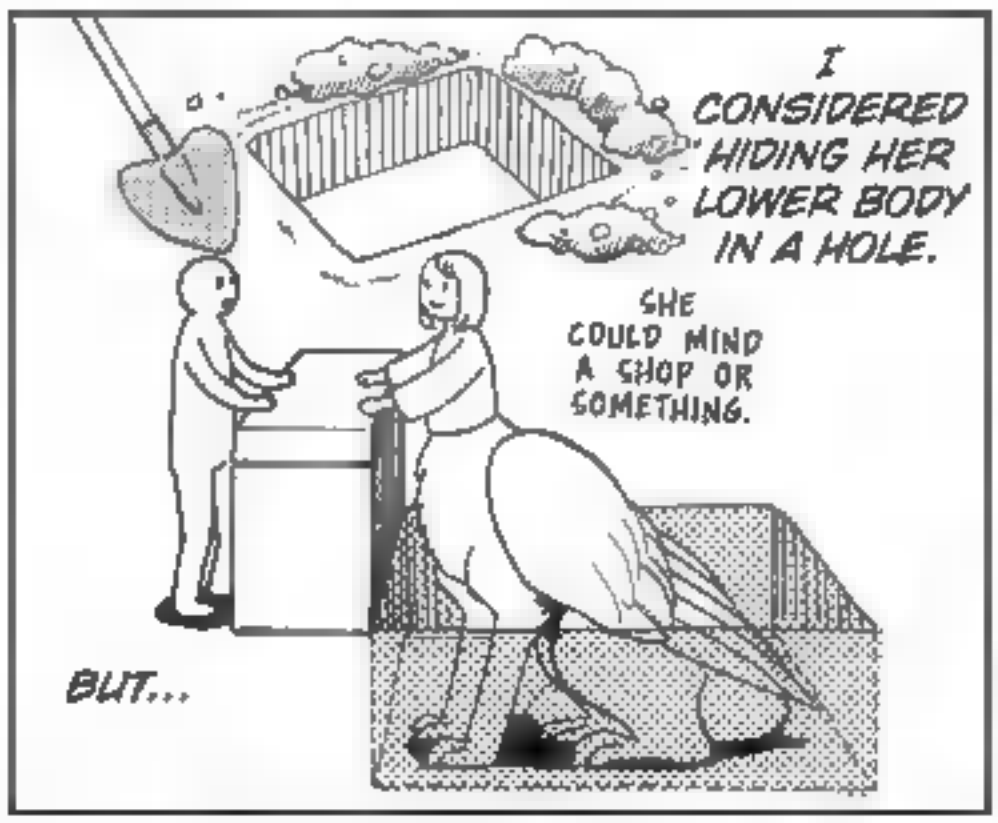
...KIDDING.
WHAT I'M GETTING AT IS...
...IF THAT'S TRUE, THOSE MUSHROOMS ARE WAY TOO CONVENIENT.

YOU STILL WANT TO BE A DEMI-HUMAN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SOME-THING"?
...BUT I GUESS IT WON'T BE THAT EASY.
I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD USE THEM FOR SOME-THING...
SIDE EFFECTS, HM? THAT COULD BE.

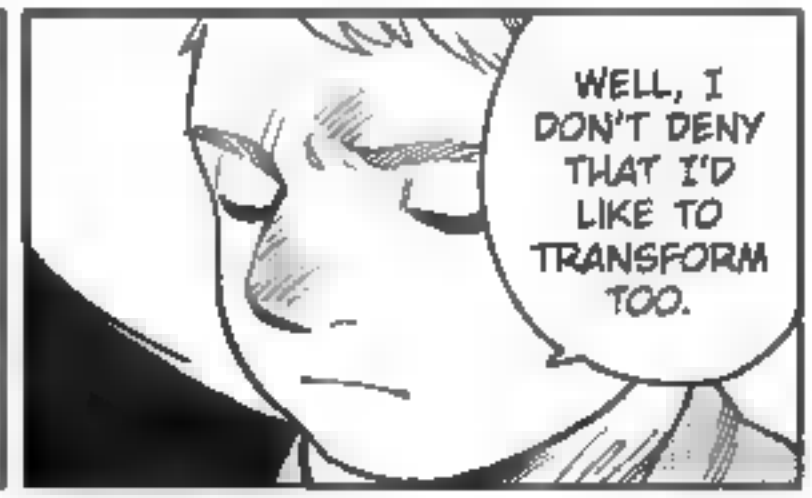

FALIN?
J-JUST HYPOTHETI-CALLY...

N-NOT THAT.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT FALIN.

AAAH!
SHE SCARES PEOPLE.
WOW, WAS THAT EVER ROUGH.
WE GO BACK TO THE SURFACE.
WHAT WAS I DOING...?
AH!
YAAY!
FALIN GETS HER MIND BACK.
LUNATIC MAGICIAN DEFEATED.
(IT ALL WORKS OUT SOMEHOW.)
I WON'T [redacted] IT ANYMORE.



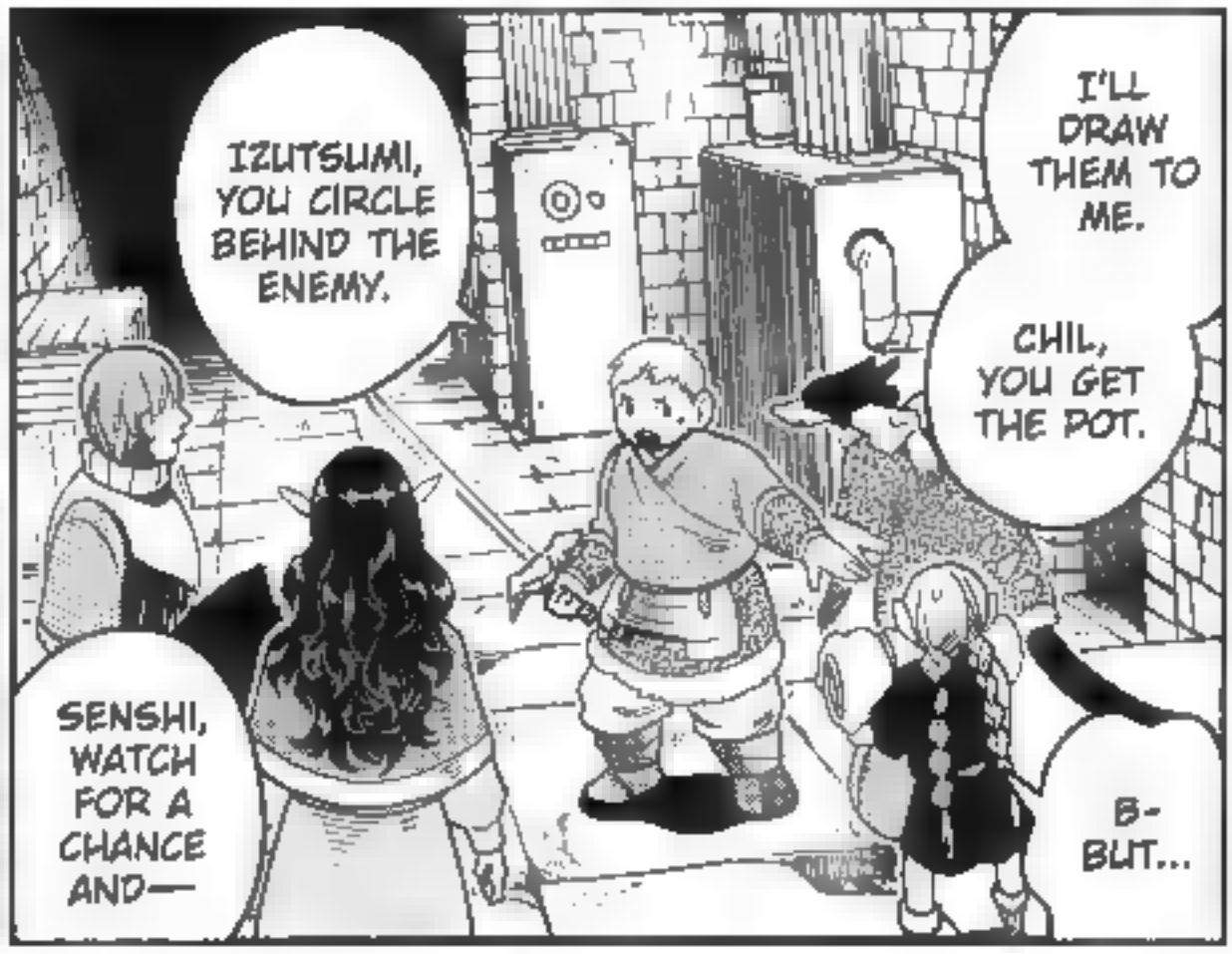
MUSHKHUSHSHU FALIN
WHA...?
YOU'RE A HOPELESS OPTIMIST.
WYRM FALIN
VELOCI-RAPTOR FALIN
KOMODO DRAGON FALIN
...FALIN MAY BE ABLE TO LIVE IN TOWN!!
IF WE CHANGE HER LOWER HALF INTO A SMALLER DRAGON...



WHAT, YOU DIDN'T SHUT THE DOOR PROP-ERLY?

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO LOCK IT.

GAR-GOYLES!



THEY'RE RIGHT THERE!

GAKIN (CRACK)

BYUO (ZOOM)

KARAN (CLANG)

KARAN

KURU (SPIN)

KURU

LAIOS!

DON (WHUD)
WAH!
OH NO! KEN-SUKE!
EVERY-BODY, LOOK OUT!

UU!
BON (BUMP)
ZUN (TROMP)
EEP!
GYA!

NOW DO YOU SEE WHY I ALWAYS GO HIDE RIGHT AWAY?
DON'T HANG AROUND THEIR FEET WHILE THEY'RE FIGHTING.
I KNOW, BUT...

KURU (SPIN)
KURU
KURU KURU
DON (WHUD)

C'MERE.
GUI (YANK)
FOR THE LOVE OF...
STILL THE SAME KLUTZ IN THAT BODY, HUH!?

BISHUN
(FWOOSH)
KAN
(CLANG)

(BOFU (BOOMF)

BUN (SHAKE)
BUN
WAS THAT YOUR SPELL?
UHH!
WHAT'S THE SMOKE FROM?
BOWA (BILLOW)
GOOD. CAN YOU GRAB KENSUKE FOR ME?
SURE—
ARE YOU TWO OKAY!?
WE'RE FINE.
IT JUST WENT BETWEEN OUR ARMS.

DID IT ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THIS?
NO...

SO THE SWORD CHANGED SHAPE?
THAT SMOKE... WAS IT...

...CHANGELING SPORES!?

YOU MEAN...

OUR ARMS WERE A "RING."

B-BUT THERE'S NO MUSHROOM RING HERE.

GOSU (WHUD)
GA (THWOK)
BO (WHUMP)
GHK!
QUIT BUZZING AROUND...
LOOK BEFORE YOU SAY STUFF!
I AM!
EVERYBODY, HOLD HANDS AND MAKE A CIRCLE!
YOU GUYS!

AND?

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

ギリ
GYU (SQUEEZE)

IF I'M RIGHT...

...THEY'LL CHANGE!

GET THE GARGOYLES TO GO THROUGH OUR CIRCLE!

BA (FOOM)

SUPO (POP)
GUI (YANK)
THE WALL'S OVER THERE! THIS WAY!
OW! OW! YOU'LL TEAR IT OFF!
GU (TUG)
HERE IT COMES! EVADE!
DOSA (THUMP)
AH!
OWWW...

GOOOO
(WHOOOSH)
BA
(FWIP)
DO
(WHUD)
GORO
GORO
GORO
(ROLL)

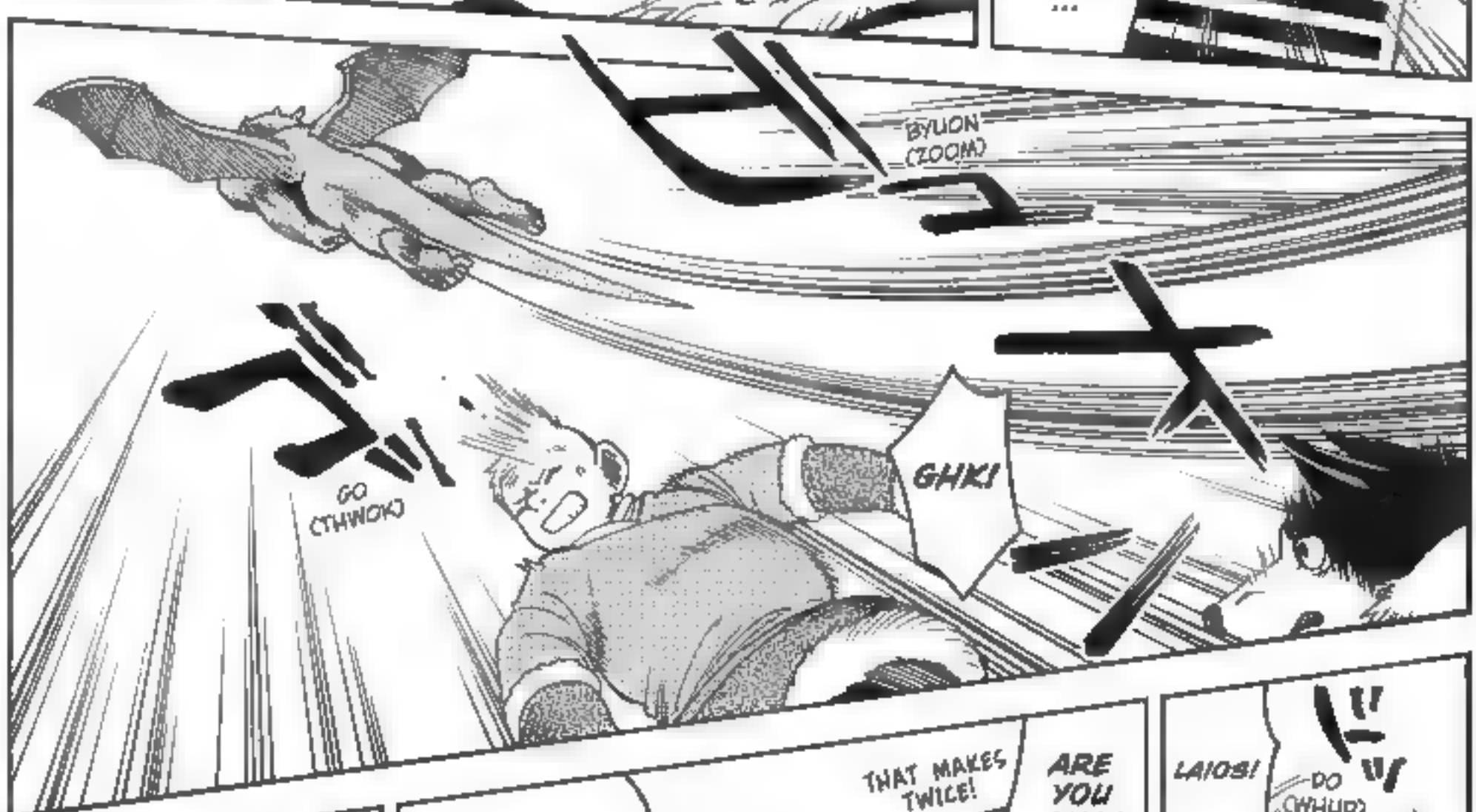
GAKIN (CLANK)
ガキン
ぐっ
GU (TUG)
ぐっ
GU

WAAA
!AAA
IT'S STUCK!!
NOW! HURRY UP, SURROUND IT!
PASHIN
PASHI (SNATCH)

BOSHU (BOOMF)
KOFF!
WHERE'S THE GAR-GOYLE!?
WE DID IT!
KOFF!
LOOK!

AND NONLIVING THINGS CHANGE FASTER?
THE MEAT DID TOO.
I SEE. SO THE SPORES—

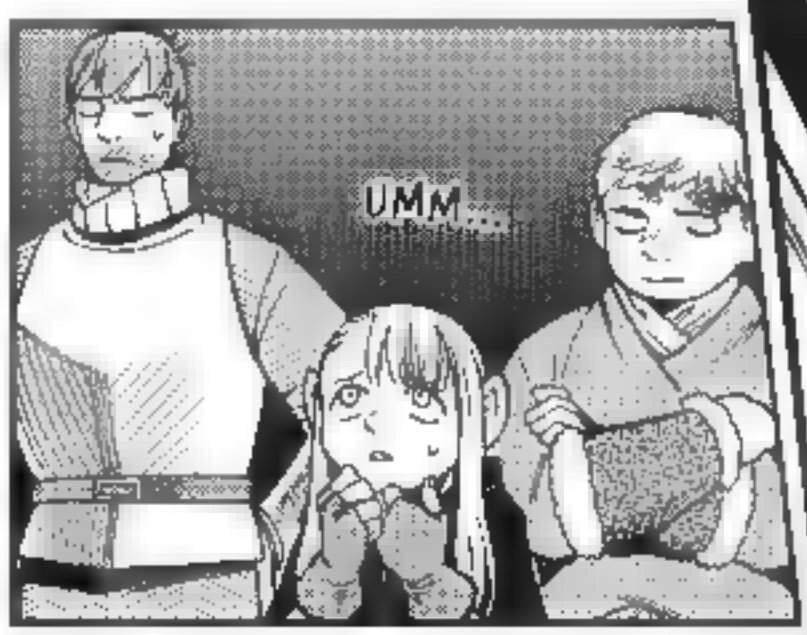
THAT'S THE GAR-GOYLE!?
IT REALLY DID CHANGE ...

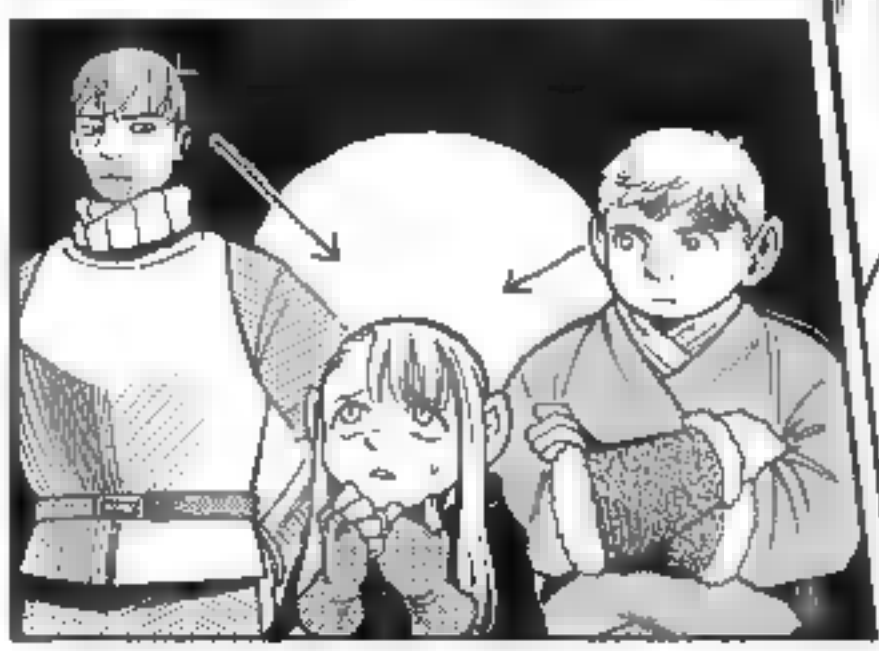

BYUON (ZOOM)
GO (THWOK)
GHK!

ARGH.

IT HURT, BUT I'M FINE.
DWARFS ARE STURDY.
THAT MAKES TWICE!
ARE YOU OKAY !?

LAIOS!
DO (WHUD)

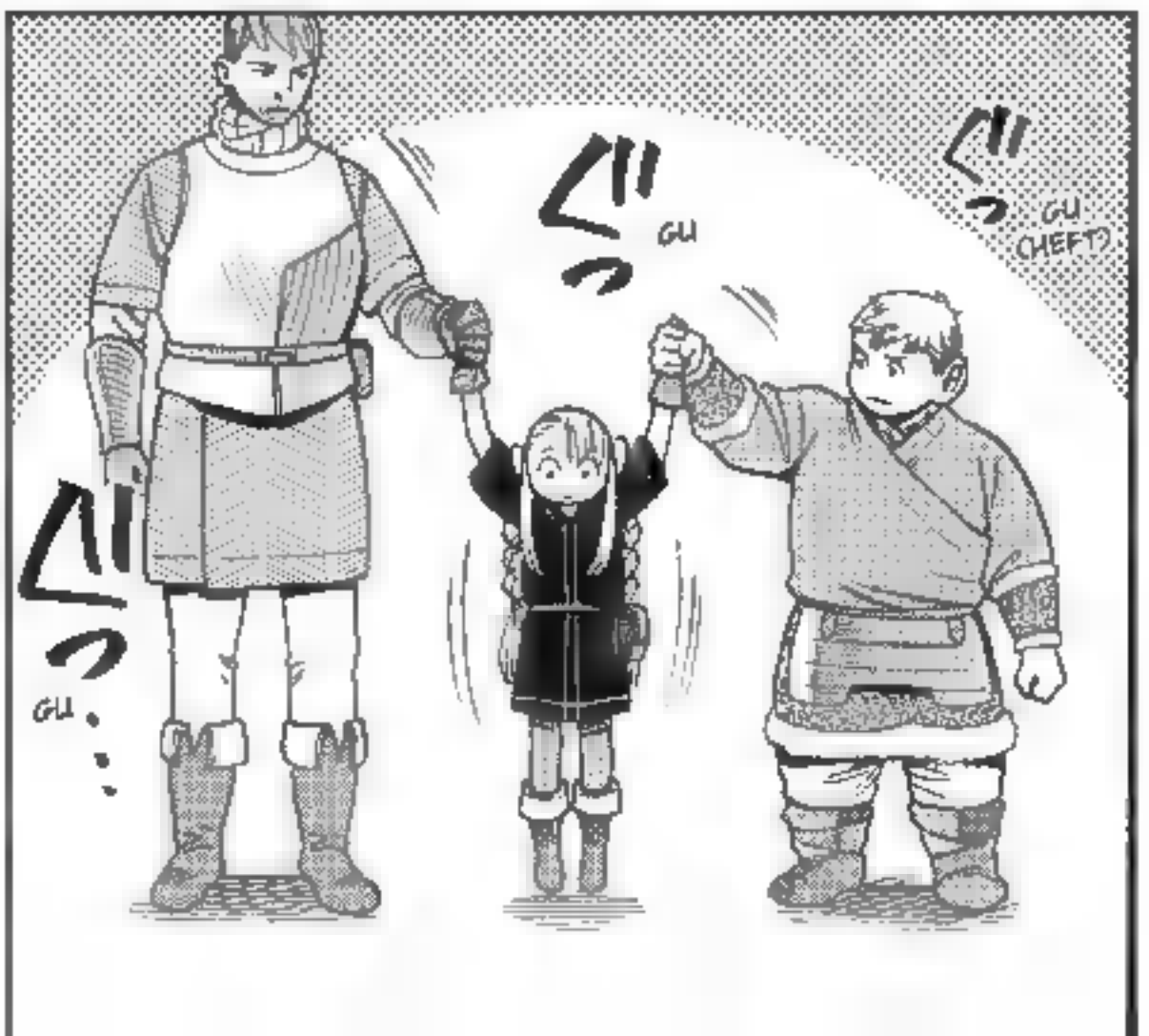

UMM...



THAT ONE ISN'T COMING DOWN.
HOW CAN WE GET IT TO GO THROUGH OUR ARMS?

HUH?
GYU (SQUEEZE)
キュッ
MARCILLE, COME HERE A SECOND.

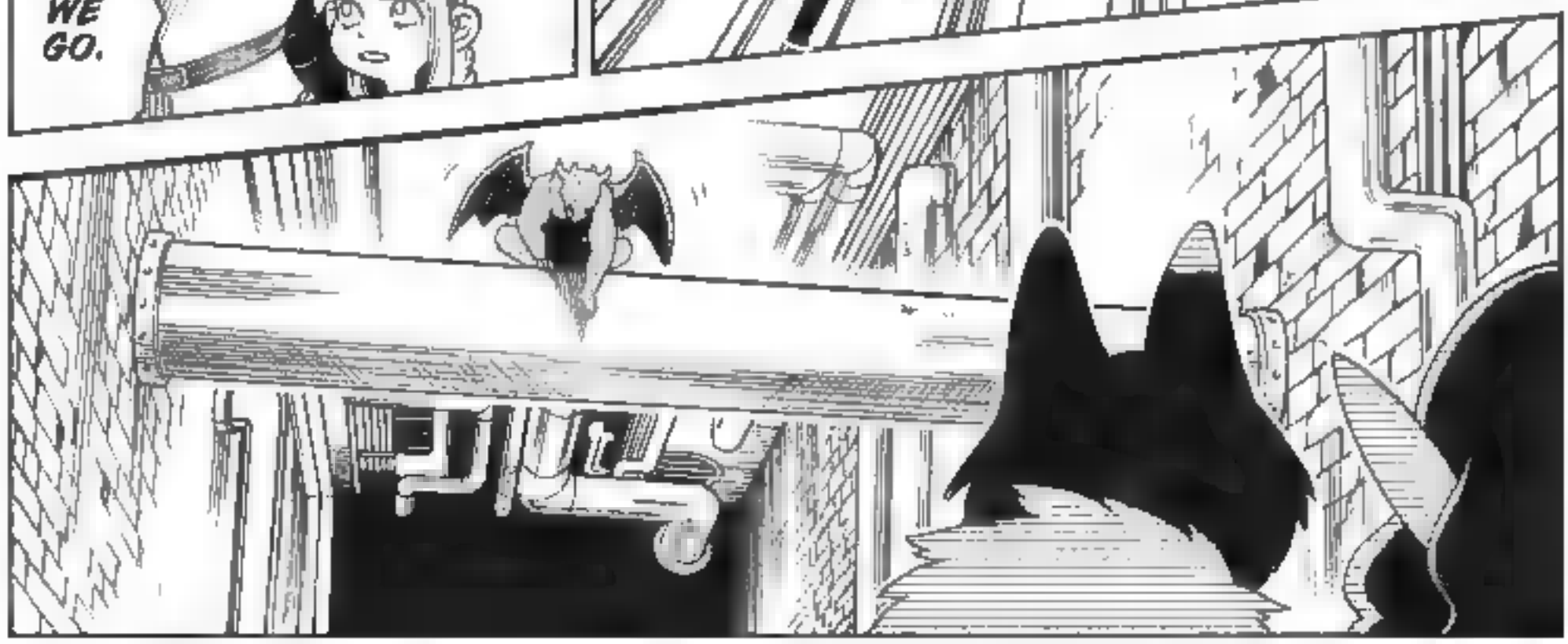
IT SHOULD WORK.
LET'S GO.
UM...

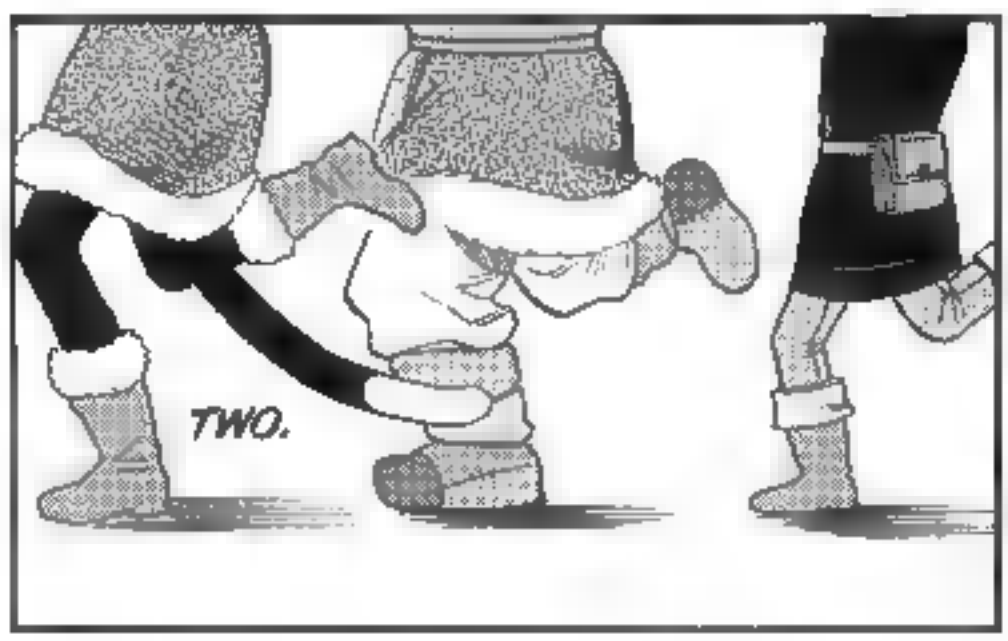

くい
GU
くい
GU
くい
GU
GU CHEFT?

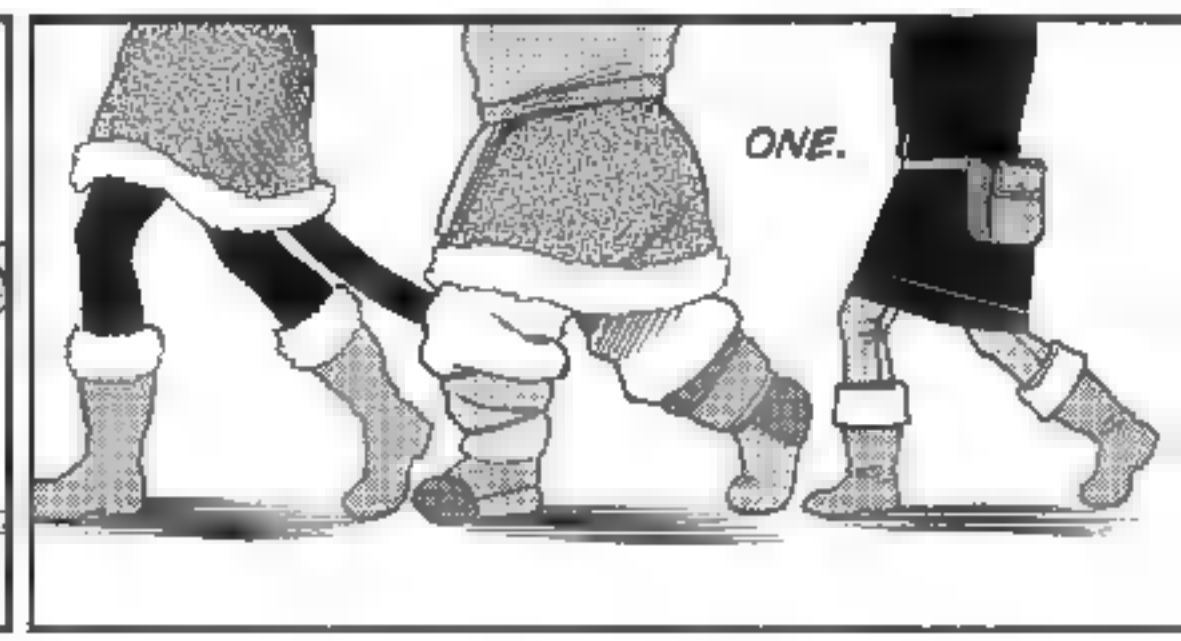
OKAY.
WE'RE GOING TO GET RIGHT UP CLOSE TO IT.
...?
BAIT IT INTO AN ATTACK.

WE'LL RUN IN SYNC!
LISTEN, I—
HERE WE GO.

ZA (ZOOSH)




TWO.


ONE.

ONE!
TWO!
ONE!
TWO!
BASA (FLAP)
READY ...!
SET—
"READY"?
HUH?
HERE IT COMES! ARE YOU READY?

FLY, MARCILLE!

NNNNN!

BOFU (BOOMF)

CHORORORO (TRICKLE)

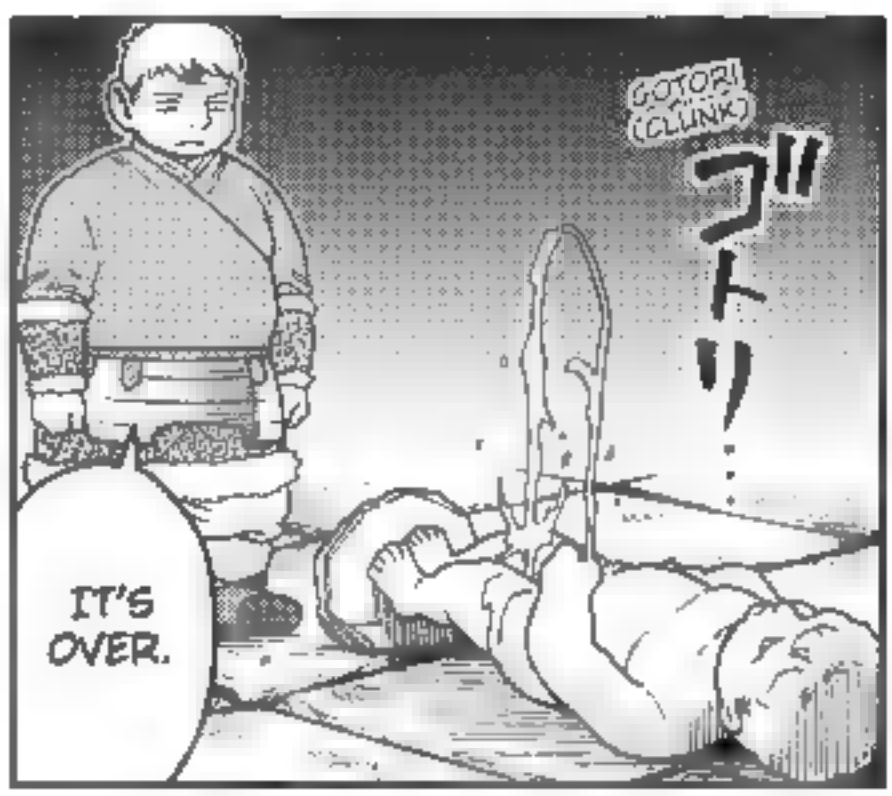
BARA (TUMBLE)

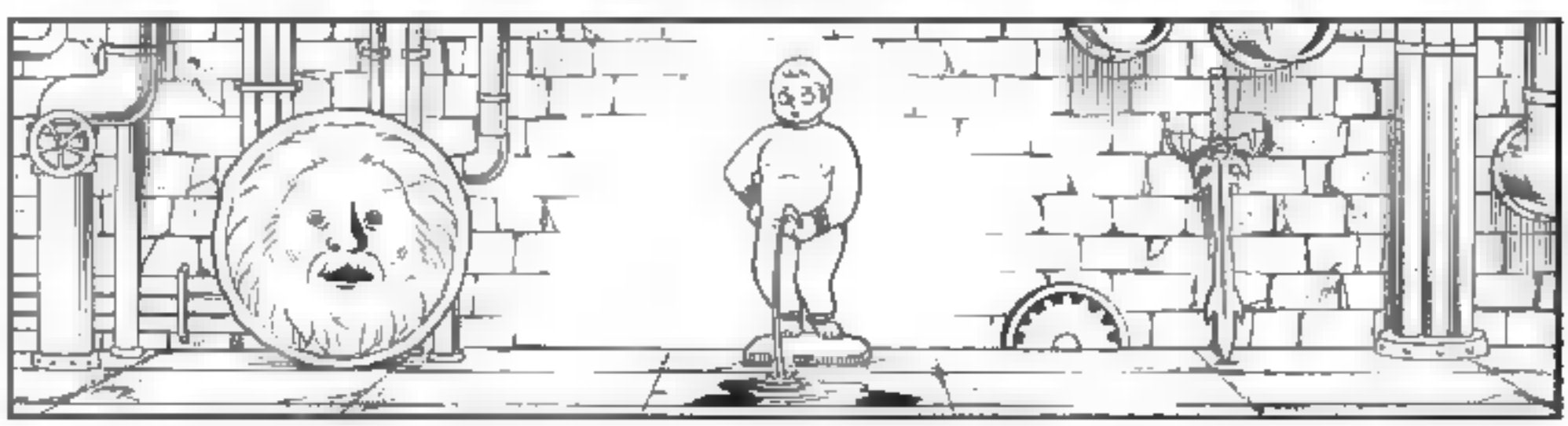
AH!

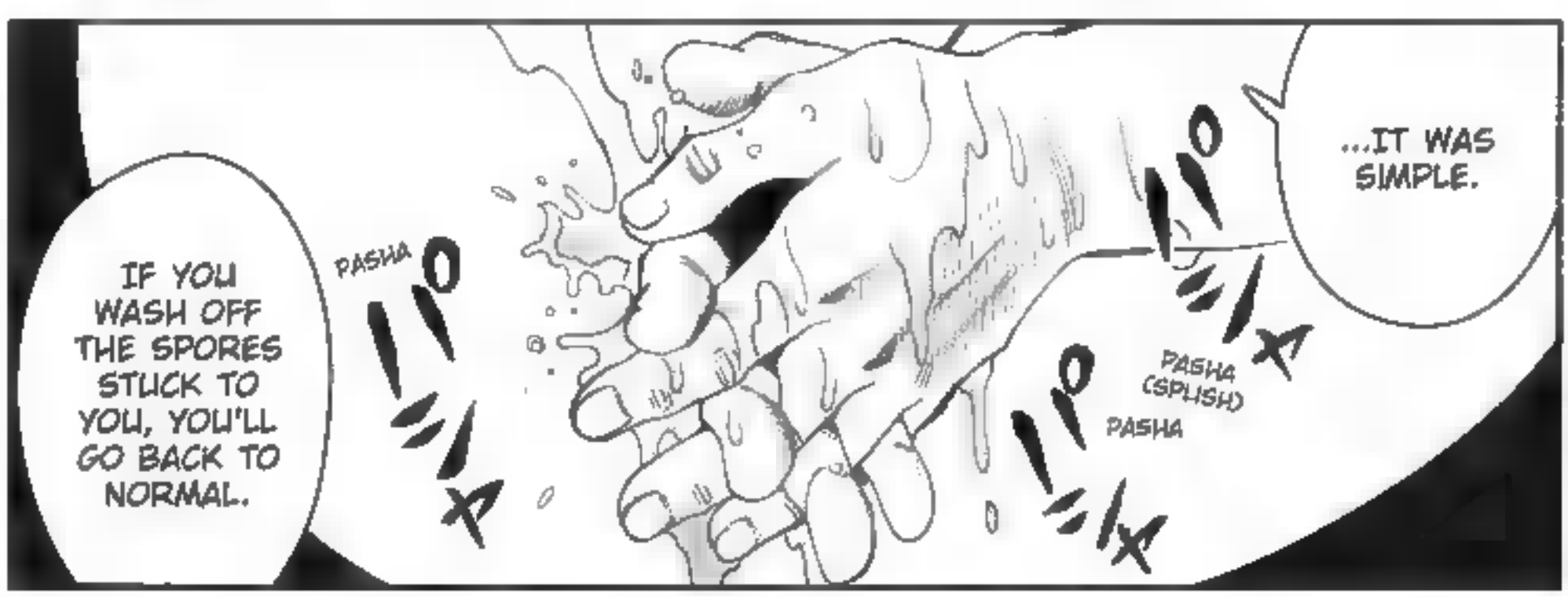
WAAH!

DON
(SHOVE)

ZURI
(RATTLE)
DABA
(SPLASH)
DABA
DABA
ZURI
ZURI

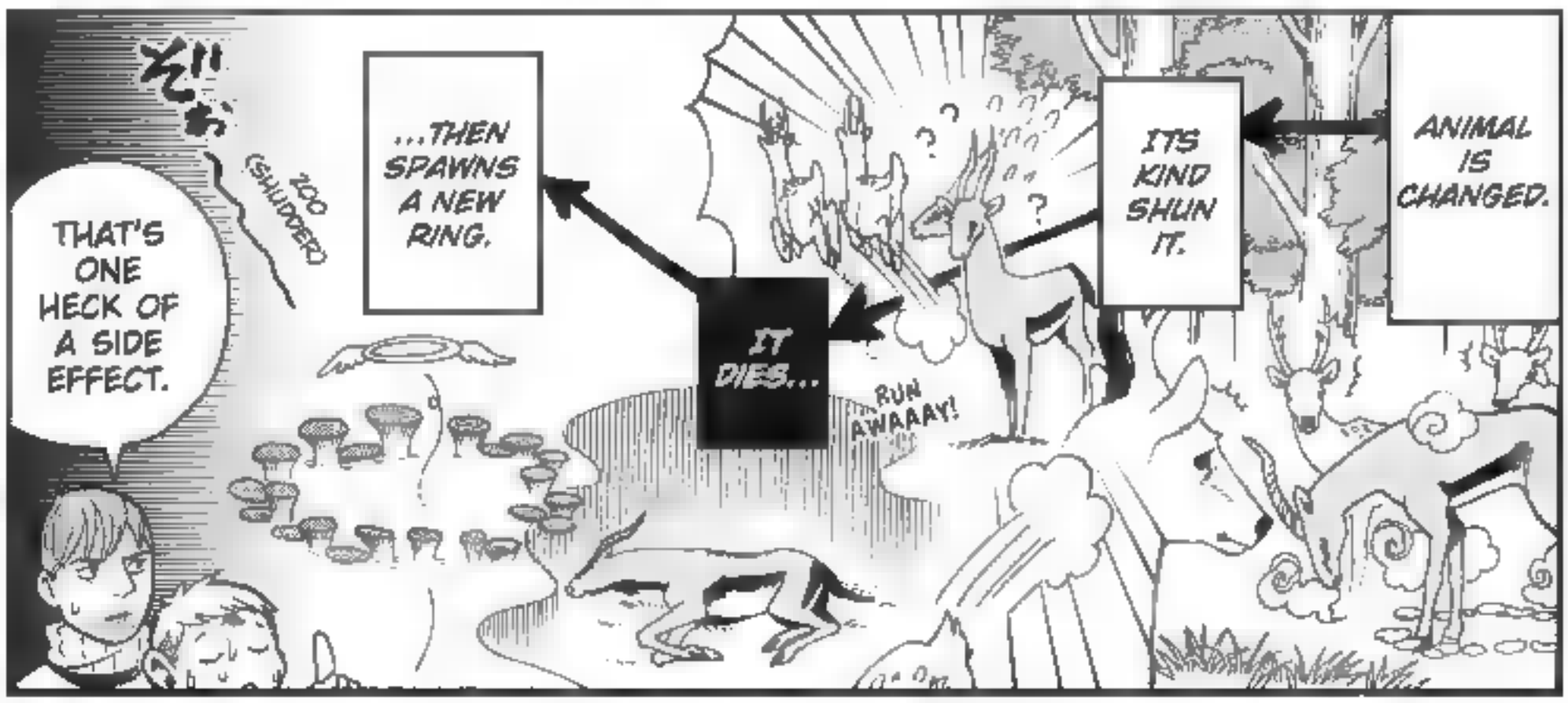

GOTORI
(CLUNK)
IT'S
OVER.




IF YOU
WASH OFF
THE SPORES
STUCK TO
YOU, YOU'LL
GO BACK TO
NORMAL.
PASHA
PASHA
(SPLISH)
PASHA
...IT WAS
SIMPLE.

REFERENCE: A SHIITAKE SUBSTRATE
PASHA (SPLASH)
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE SUBSTRATES FOR THE MUSH-ROOMS.
NOW I SEE WHY THOSE MUSHROOMS ACT THE WAY THEY DO.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S JUST WATER.
...EW.
JYORO (TINKLE) JYORO
IT'S BEST TO RINSE IT OFF WELL.


THAT'S ONE HECK OF A SIDE EFFECT.
ZOO (SHUDDER)
...THEN SPAWNS A NEW RING.
IT DIES...
RUN AWAAAY!
ITS KIND SHUN IT.
ANIMAL IS CHANGED.

HEH!
...AND FIX A MEAL WHILE WE WAIT.
OF COURSE.

LET'S FIND A PLACE TO CAMP...
UNLIKE THE GAR-GOYLES...
...IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME FOR US TO TURN BACK.

WHOO...

NYORO (WRIGGLE)
I DOUBT IT WAS THE MUSHROOMS THAT TURNED HIM INTO A KEY, BUT...
ZIZOT!?

KENSUKE... JUST LOOK WHAT IT DID TO YOU.

GOSO (RUSTLE)

LIAR.
IZU-TSUMI, WASH YOUR CLOTHES.
THEY'LL SPROUT MUSH-ROOMS ALL OVER.

.....

DON'T CLEAN SWORDS WITH WATER.
WILL WASHING HIM FIX IT?

MEH. NOT REALLY.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
I'M JUST TIRED OF THEM.

...THAT AGAIN?

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
WE HAVE DUMPLINGS LEFT, SO I'LL BOIL THOSE.

AHH, THAT FEELS BETTER.
...WHAT'S WRONG?

TIRED OF THEM...
TIRED OF THEM...
TIRED OF THEM...
DOES HER OWN THING, DOESN'T SHE?

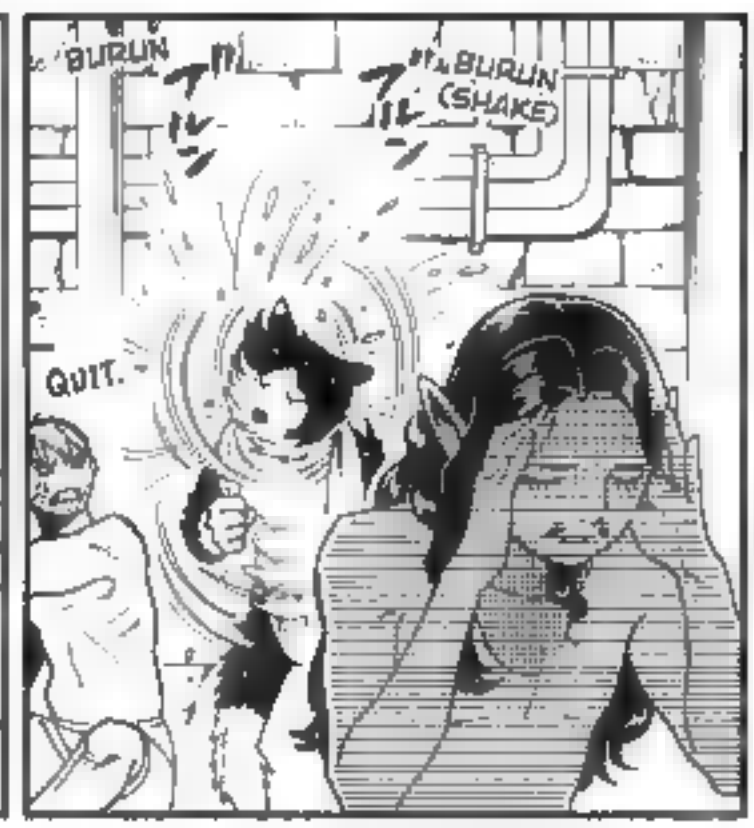
AH!
HOT!
BACHI BACHI
BACHI (CRACKLE)

JYUWAWAWA (SIZZZZLE)
HEAT OIL IN A FRYING PAN.
GENTLY PUT THE DUMP-LINGS IN.

MAYBE I'LL COOK THEM ANOTHER WAY.

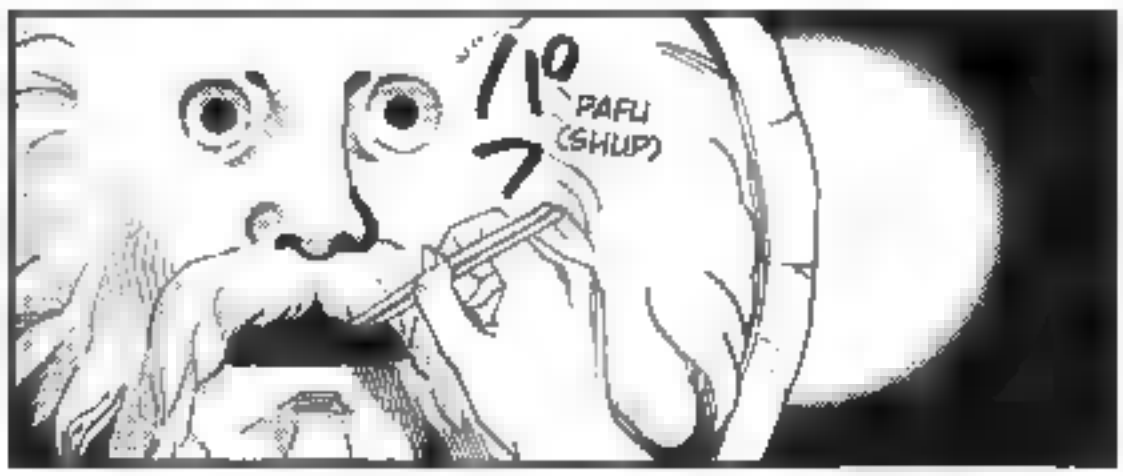
KARI
カリ
KARI (CRISP)

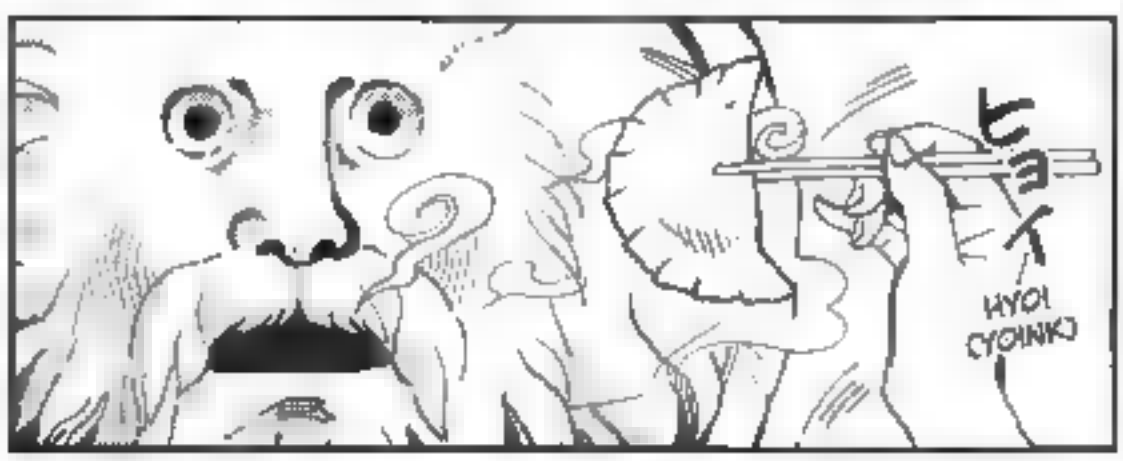
IZUTSUMI DOESN'T EAT MUCH, AND SHE WON'T TOUCH ANYTHING SHE DOESN'T LIKE.
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE EXTRA CARE TO ENSURE SHE EATS ENOUGH.
WHEN GOLDEN BROWN, TAKE THEM OUT AND BLOT EXCESS OIL.


BURUN
BURUN (SHAKE)
QUIT.

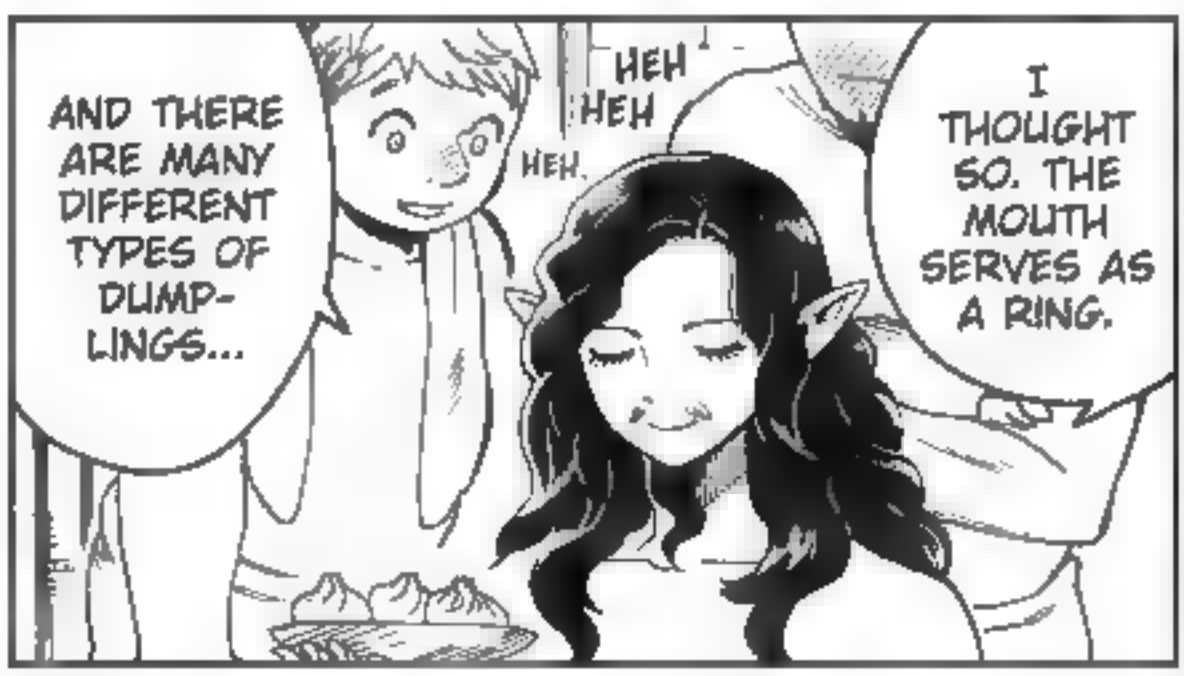
HAH! HAH!
HOW'S THIS, IZU-TSUMI?
...YOU JUST FRIED THEM?

su su su su
(SCOOT)


PAFU
(SHLUP)


HYO!
(OINK)

JUST MAYBE...


AND THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF DUMP-LINGS...
HEH HEH HEH.
I THOUGHT SO. THE MOUTH SERVES AS A RING.

WHOA!
IT CHANGED SHAPE!?

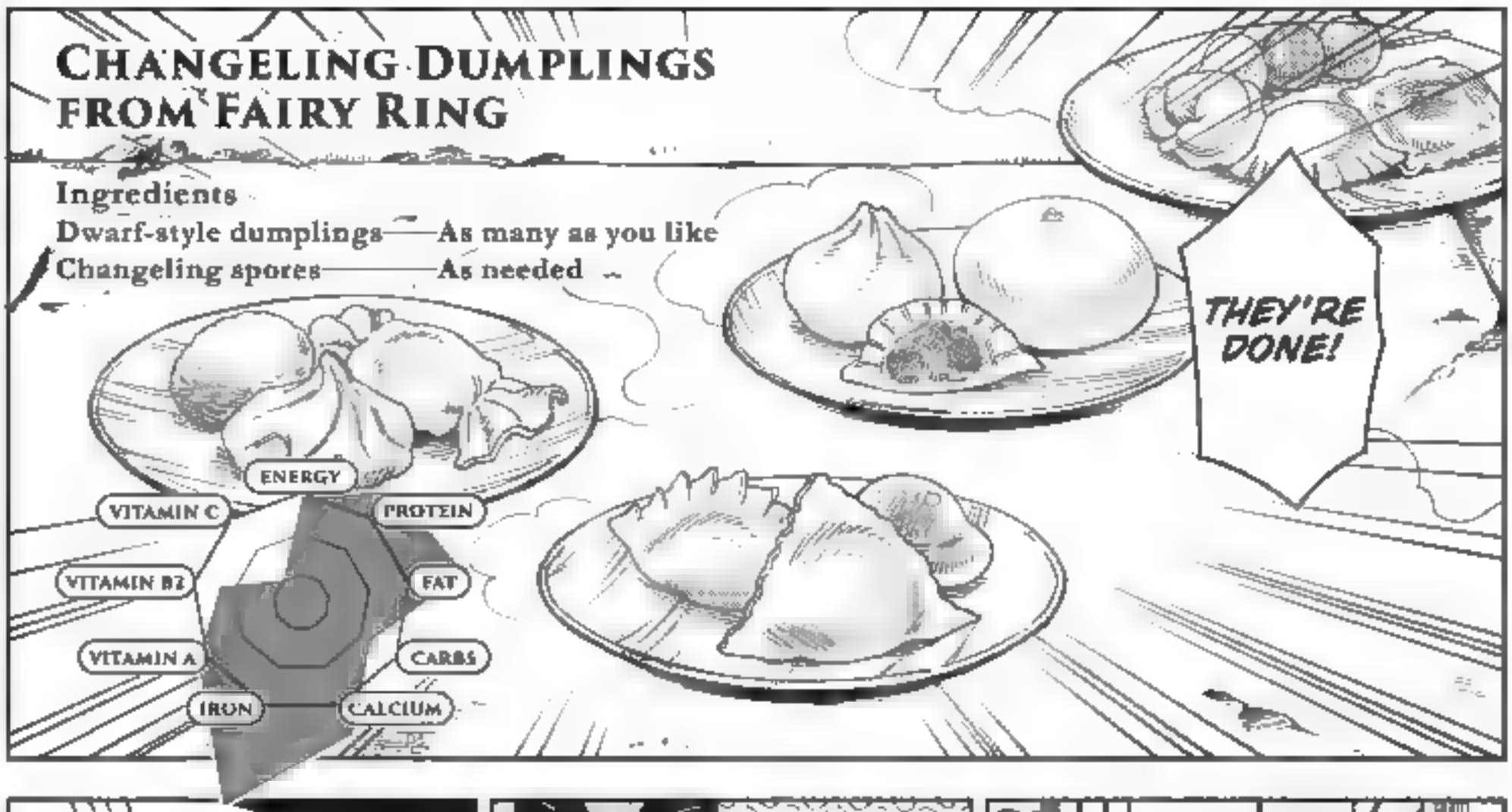
NOW, COME HELP ME SET OUT THE DISHES.

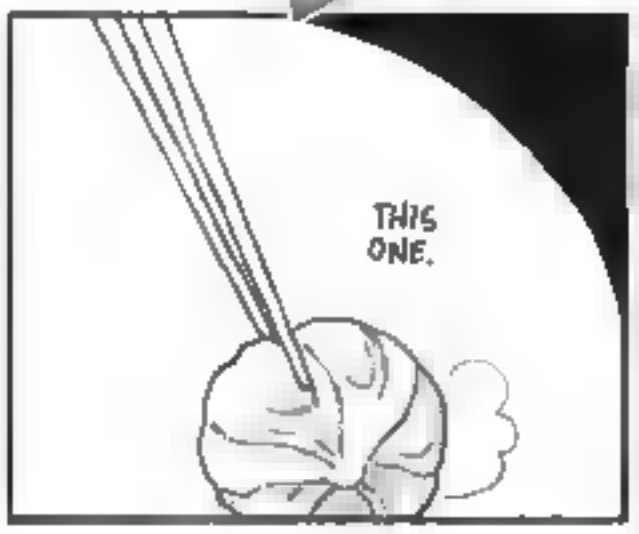
IT DIDN'T HAPPEN WHEN WE ATE THE HIPPOGRIFF MEAT, DID IT?
DIGES-TION IS POWER-FUL.
WHAT IF THOSE MAKE MUSHROOMS SPROUT IN OUR STOMACHS?

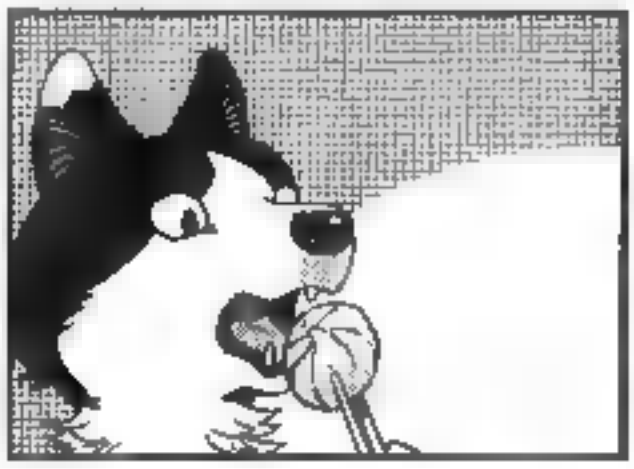
Changeling Dumplings from Fairy Ring

Ingredients

Dwarf-style dumplings——As many as you like
Changeling spores——As needed







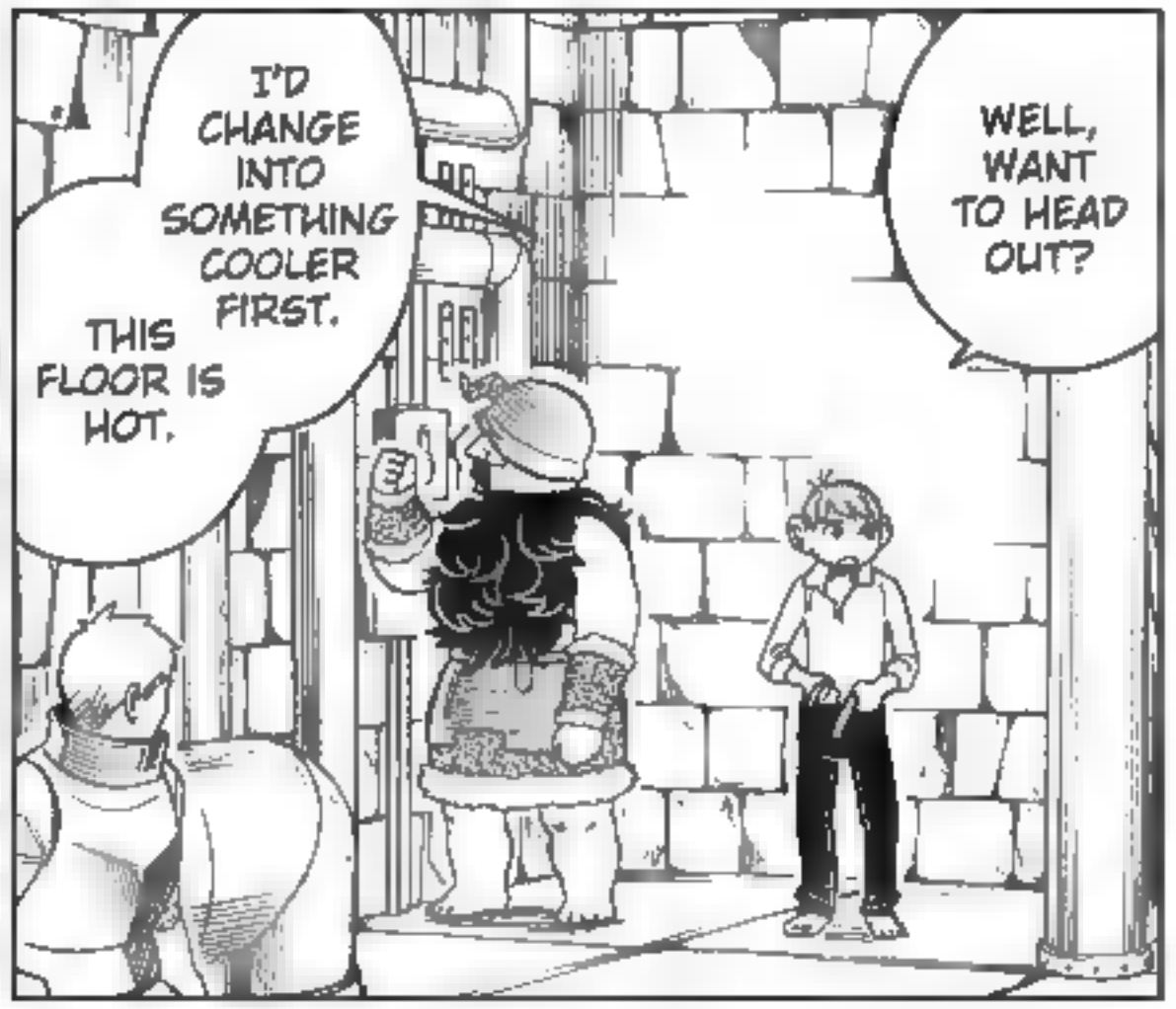
UU!

BASHI (SMACK)
YOUR LEGS ARE TOO LONG!

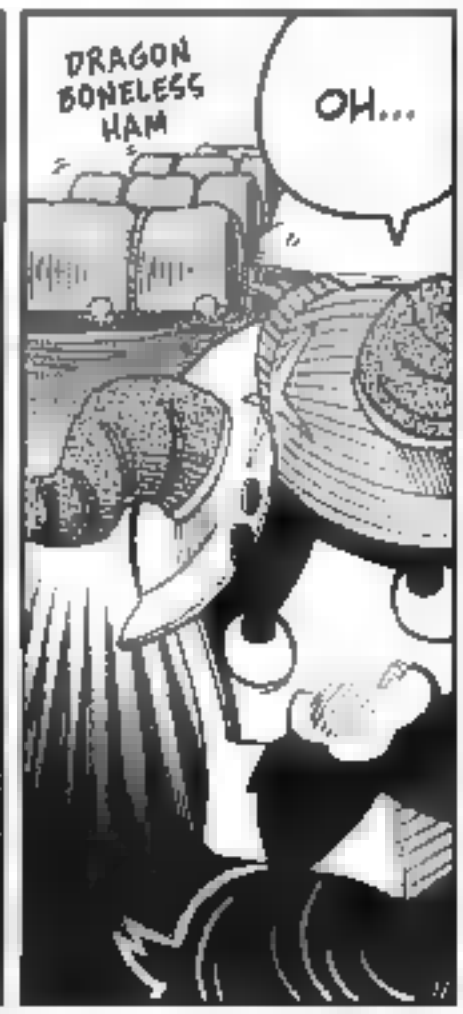
THANK GOOD-NESS.
I'M SO GLAD...

YOU'RE RIGHT!
DAMN, THAT'S A LOUSY WAY TO WAKE UP.
OH, I'M BACK TO NORMAL.

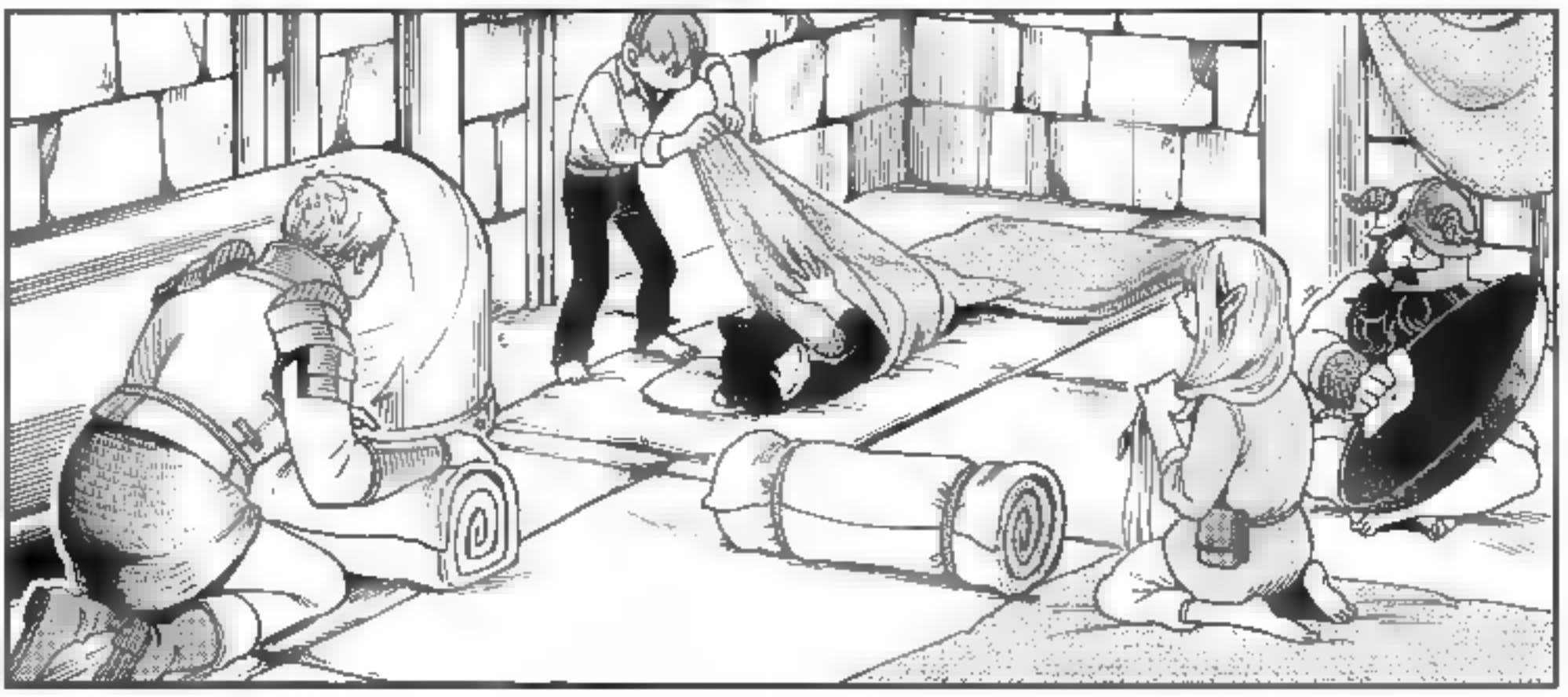
IT'S A TEMPERATURE THAT MAKES BREEDING EASY...
KON KON (TAP)
...BUT THERE MAY NOT BE ANYTHING ALIVE UP AHEAD.


I'D CHANGE INTO SOMETHING COOLER FIRST.
THIS FLOOR IS HOT.
WELL, WANT TO HEAD OUT?

I LOST THAT.
IT WAS A TRAGIC AFFAIR...
I SEE.
WELL, NO BIG DEAL.

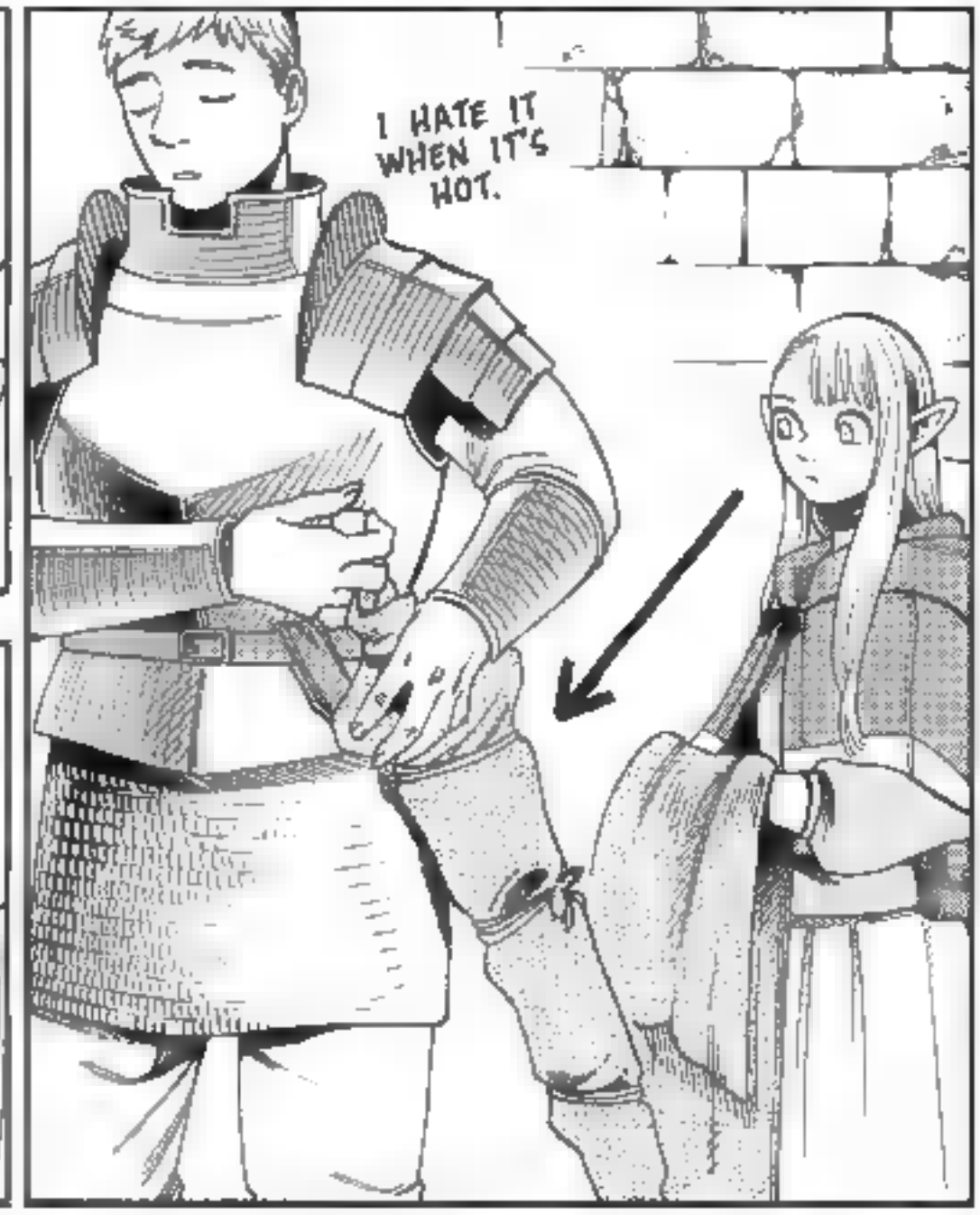

DRAGON BONELESS HAM
OH...

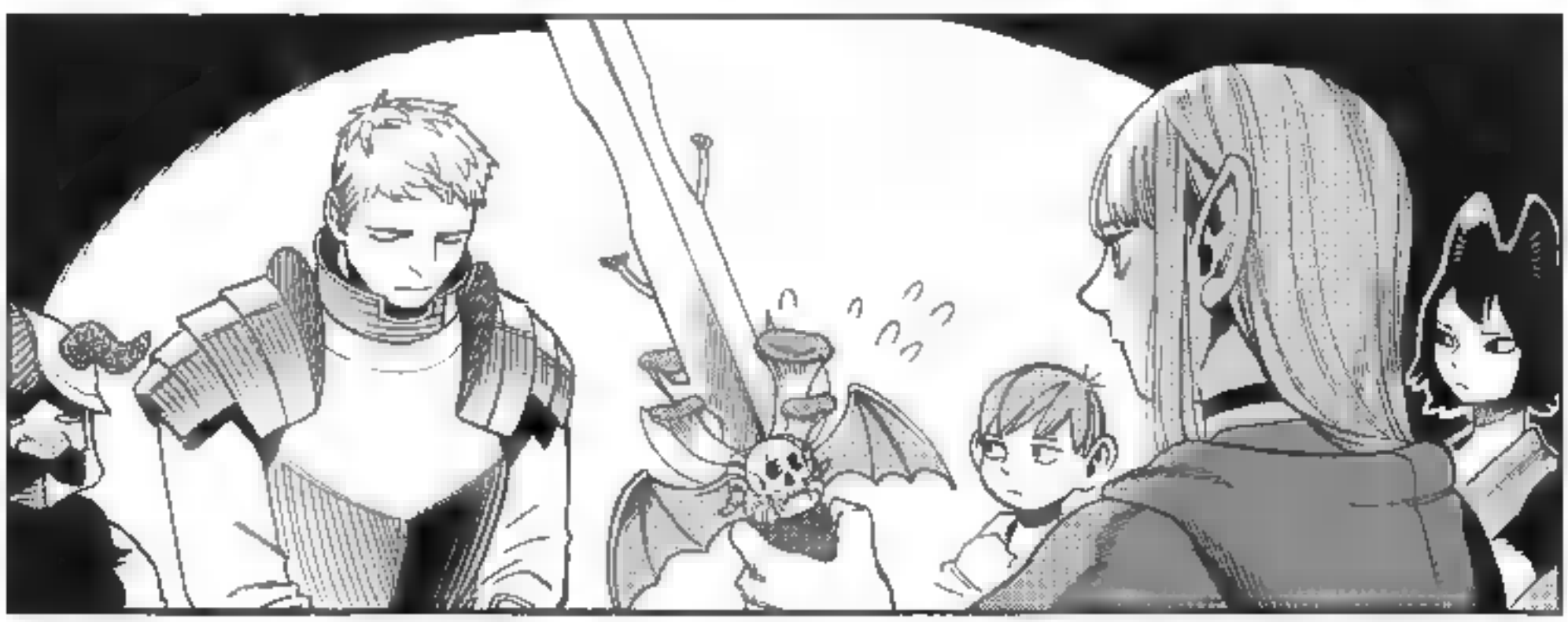
I'M WORRIED...
I SHOULD HAVE MADE UP SOME SAUSAGE.
DIDN'T YOU MAKE SOME WITH THE RED DRAGON MEAT EARLIER?

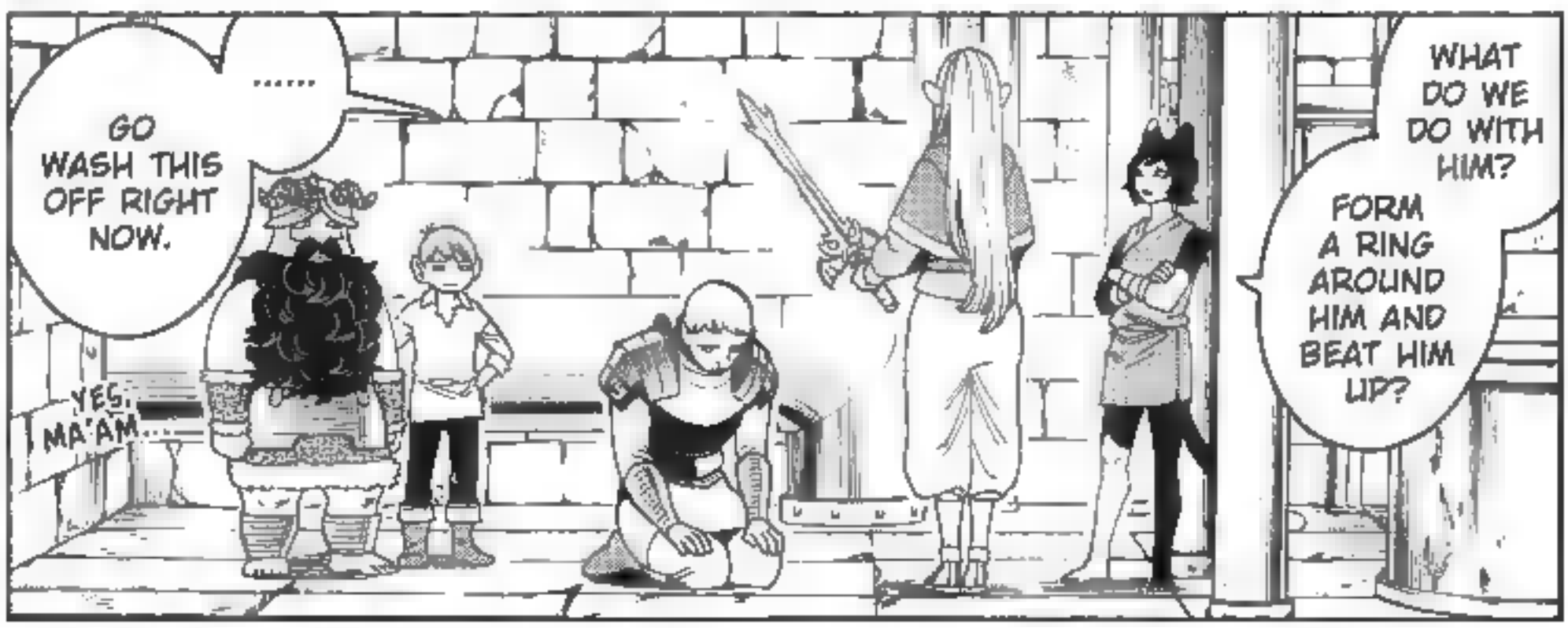


HUH!? IT'S, UM...
WHY IS YOUR SWORD WRAPPED UP?
IN A SHEATH, KENSUKE WOULD GET STEAMED...

NO, UM...
LET ME SEE IT.
I CAN'T REALLY DO THAT.
SHOW ME!


I HATE IT WHEN IT'S HOT.

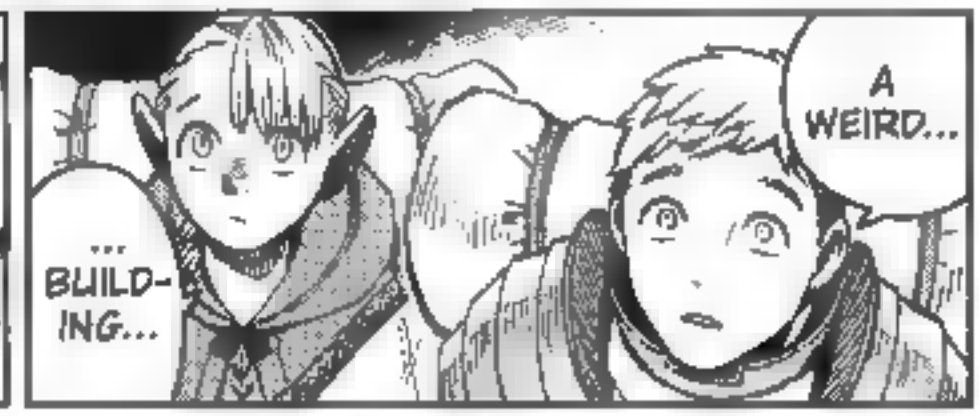



.....
GO WASH THIS OFF RIGHT NOW.
YES, MA'AM...
WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?
FORM A RING AROUND HIM AND BEAT HIM UP?

52. Bacon and Eggs

HOW ABOUT THERE?

JUST A WEIRD BUILDING. THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO GO!

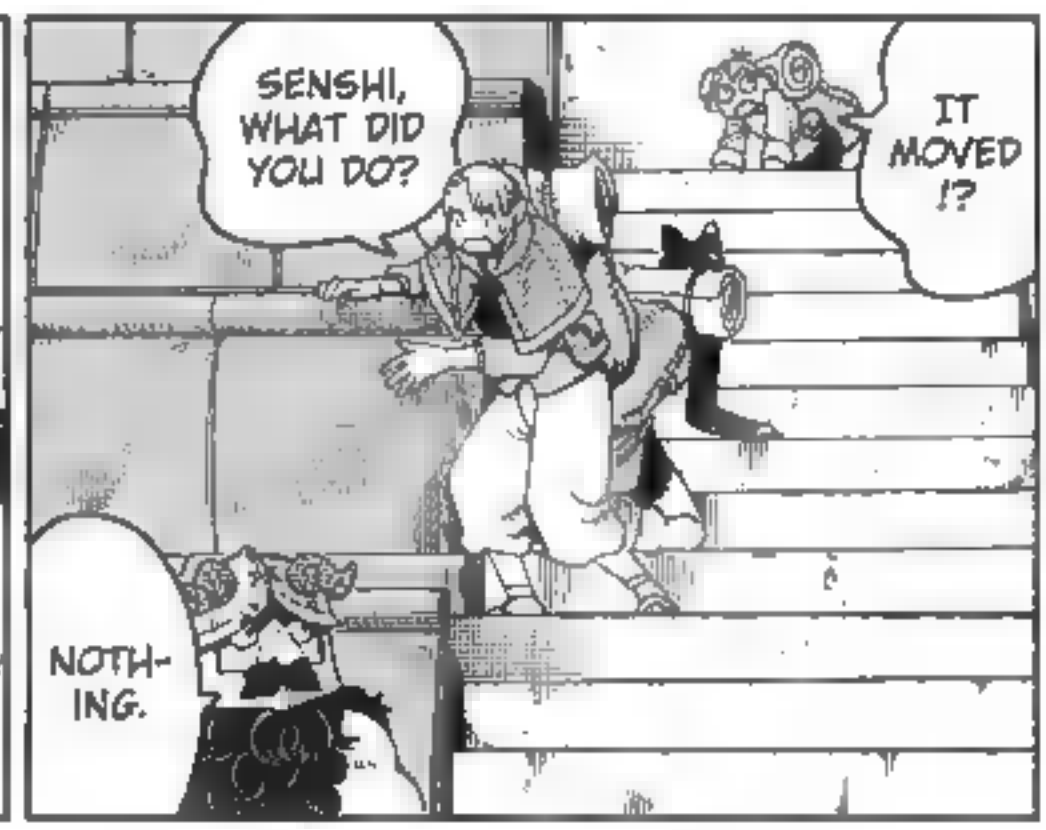


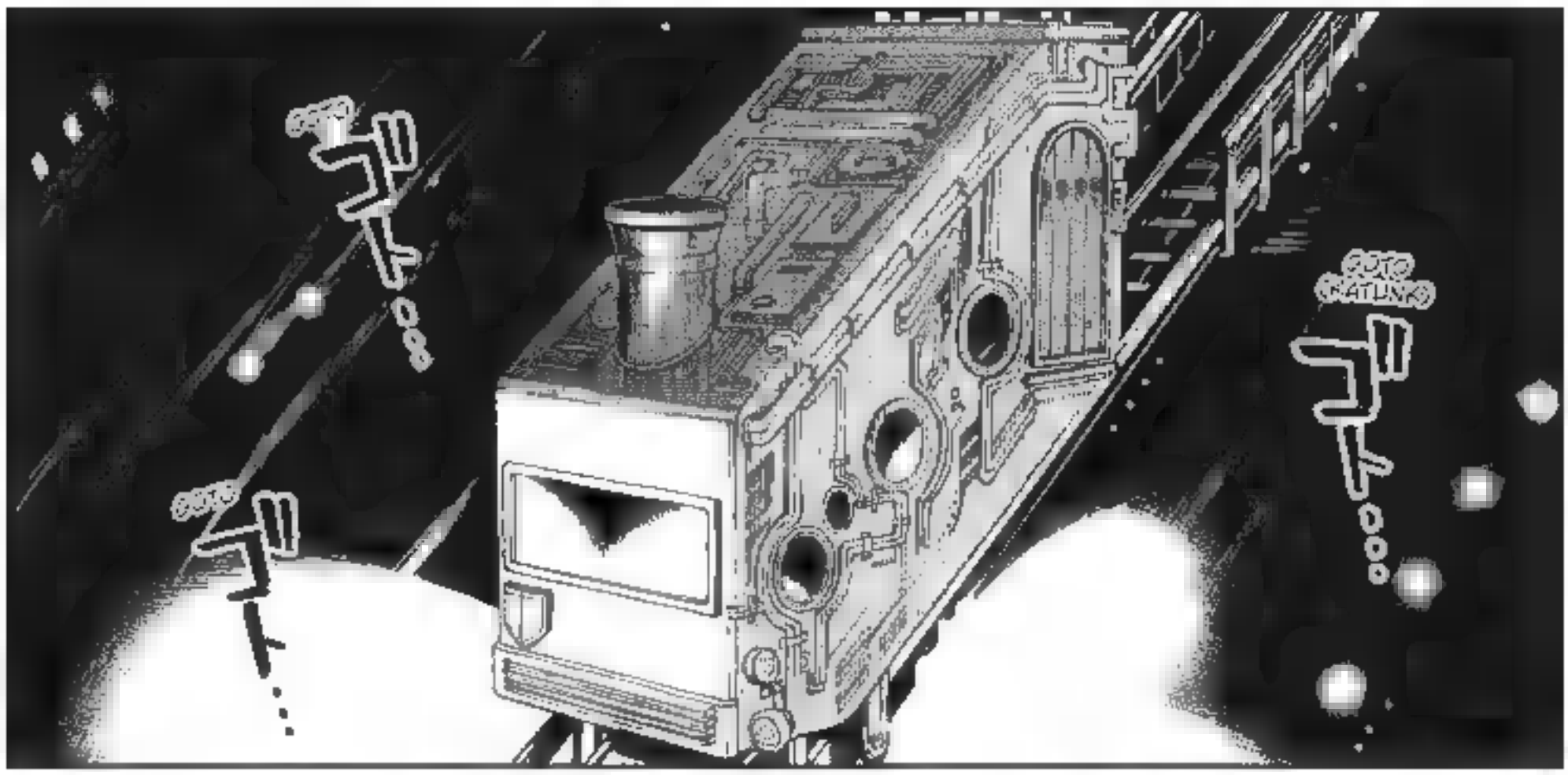
GOTON
(CLANK)

JAKON
(KACHUNK)

IF WE BROKE IT DOWN AND SOLD IT, I BET IT'D BRING IN QUITE A BIT.
I DOUBT IT STILL WORKS.

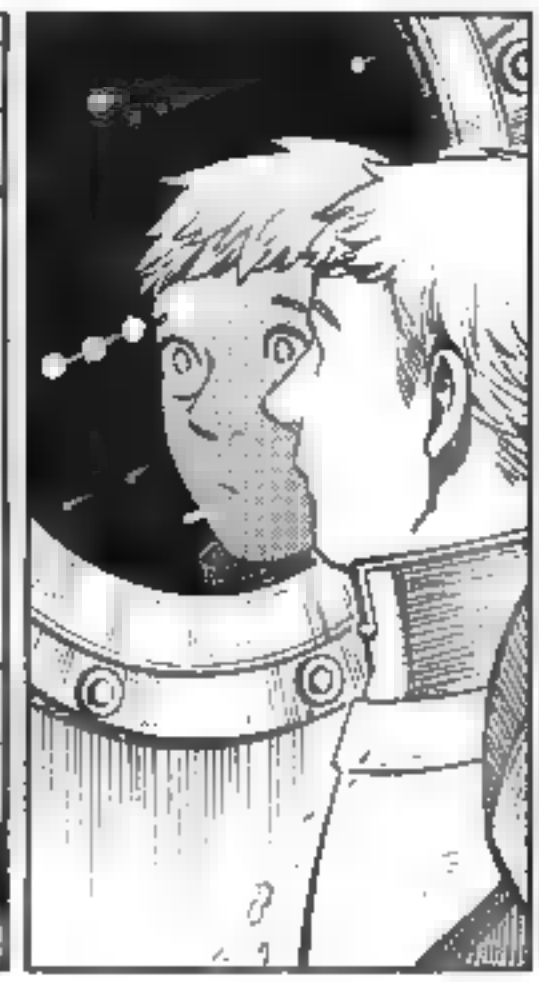
THERE'S INFORMATION HERE. I'LL LOOK IT OVER.
GO AHEAD AND SIT DOWN.
IT MAY BE BUILT TO MOVE WHEN PEOPLE BOARD.


SENSHI, WHAT DID YOU DO?
NOTH-ING.
IT MOVED !?

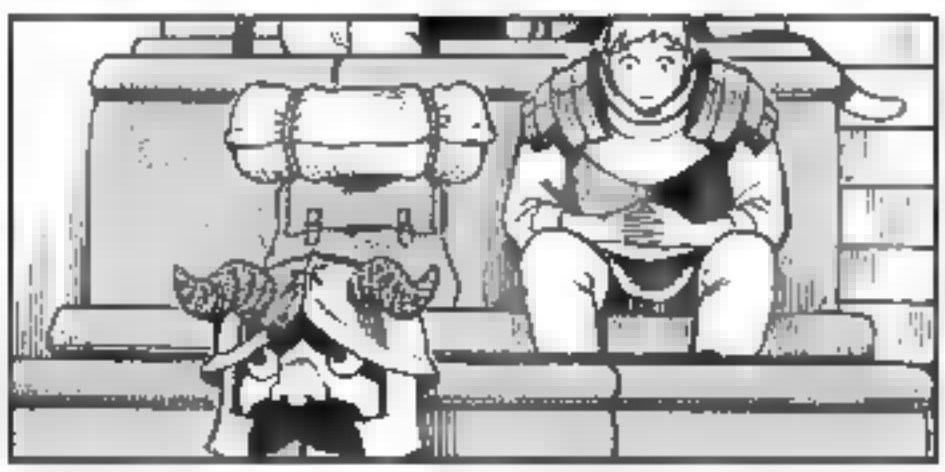

GOTO (CLATUNK)

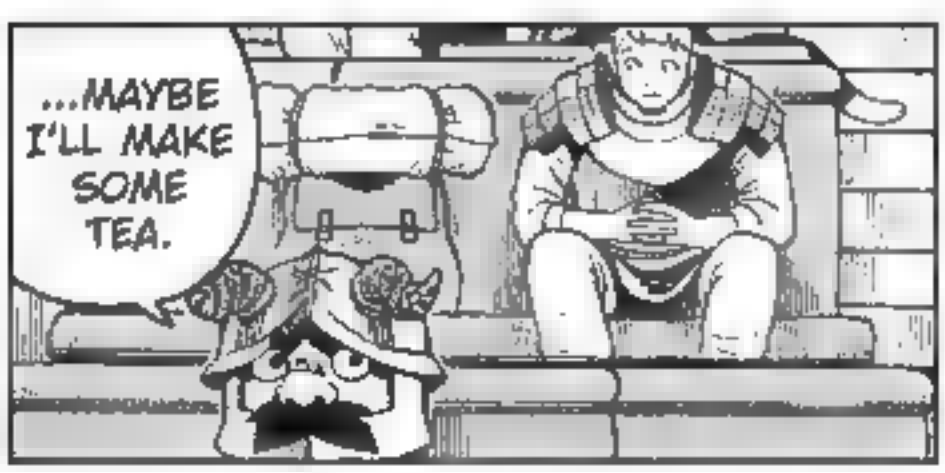
DO NOT CONSUME ALCOHOL ONBOARD.
DO NOT WALK AROUND WHILE VEHICLE IS MOVING.
DO NOT LEAN OUT OF WINDOWS.
HMM...

UTO (DOZE)
UTO



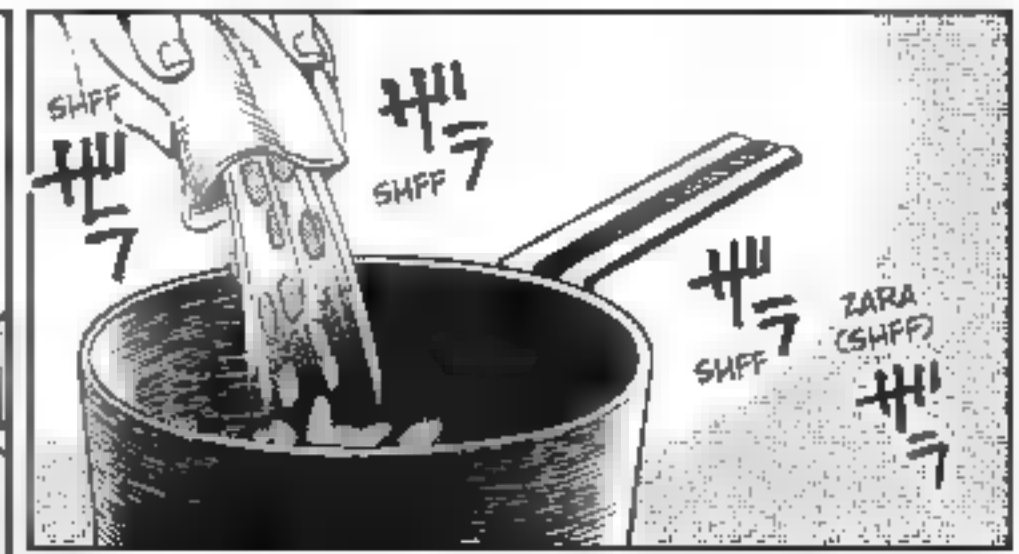
YAWN...




...MAYBE I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.

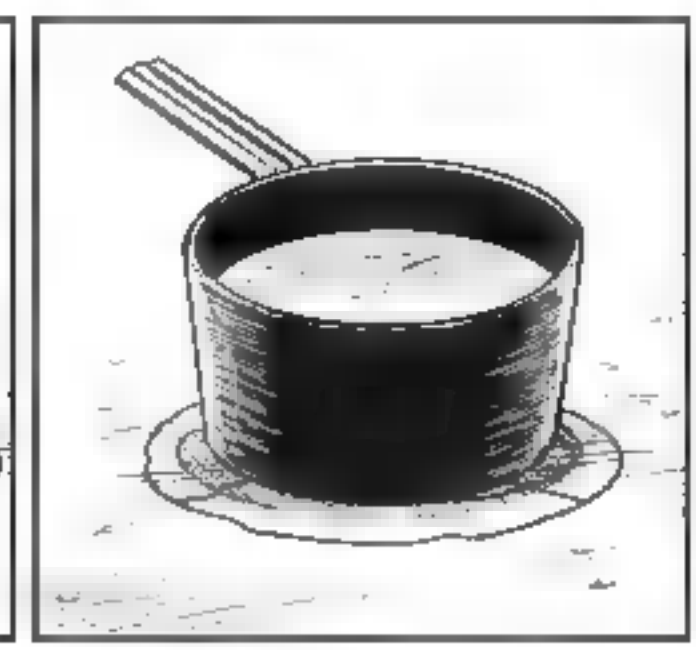
WELL, IT DOESN'T SEEM DANGEROUS.
LET'S RIDE IT AS FAR AS IT GOES.
THERE WASN'T MUCH WRITTEN THERE.

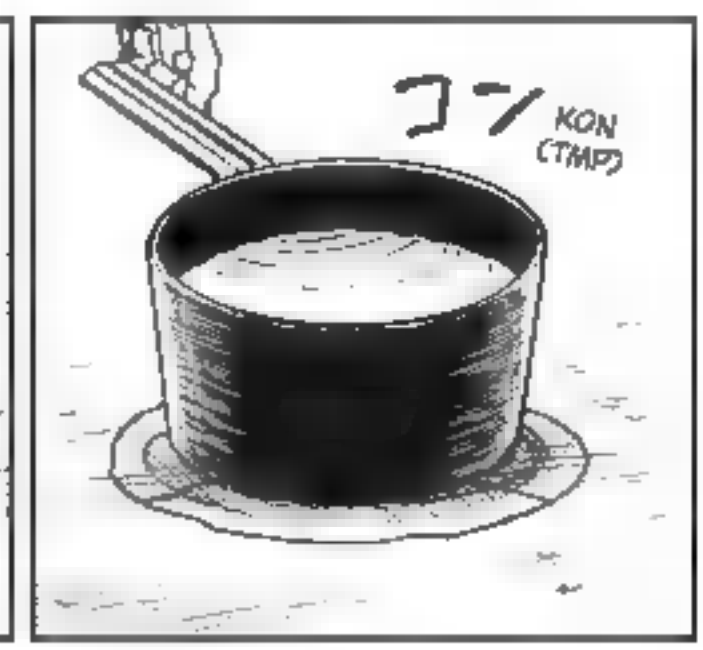
DID YOU GET A MAGIC CIRCLE DRAWN?
I THINK SO...
I'M NOT SURE WHETHER IT'S WORKING, THOUGH.


SHFF
SHFF
SHFF
ZARA (SHFF)

ROASTED DRYAD SEEDS.
WHAT'S THAT?

PO (BLUP)
IT'S SLOW, BUT IT DOES SEEM TO BE HEATING.




KON (TMP)

HUH? ME?
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE DREAMS OF GETTING RICH QUICK.

THAT'S HANDY.
BY THE WAY, LAIOS.
WHY DID YOU AND YOUR SISTER BECOME ADVEN-TURERS?

I DIDN'T FIT THERE EITHER, THOUGH...

IN MY TEENS, I GOT FED UP WITH MY VILLAGE.

HM. IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT...

I WENT TO A SCHOOL IN TOWN, THEN JOINED THE ARMY.

I MADE MY WAY SOUTH...

...AND I SIGNED ON WITH A PASSING CARAVAN.

WHAT, HE DESERTED?

...DOING ODD JOBS AS I WENT...

...AND FINALLY REACHED THIS ISLAND.

THEN SHE INSISTED ON COMING WITH ME, SO...

FALIN WAS AT A NEARBY MAGIC SCHOOL, SO BEFORE CROSSING TO THE ISLAND...

...I STOPPED BY JUST TO SEE HER.

GOKI
CKRIKKO

...WE WENT TO THE ISLAND TOGETHER.

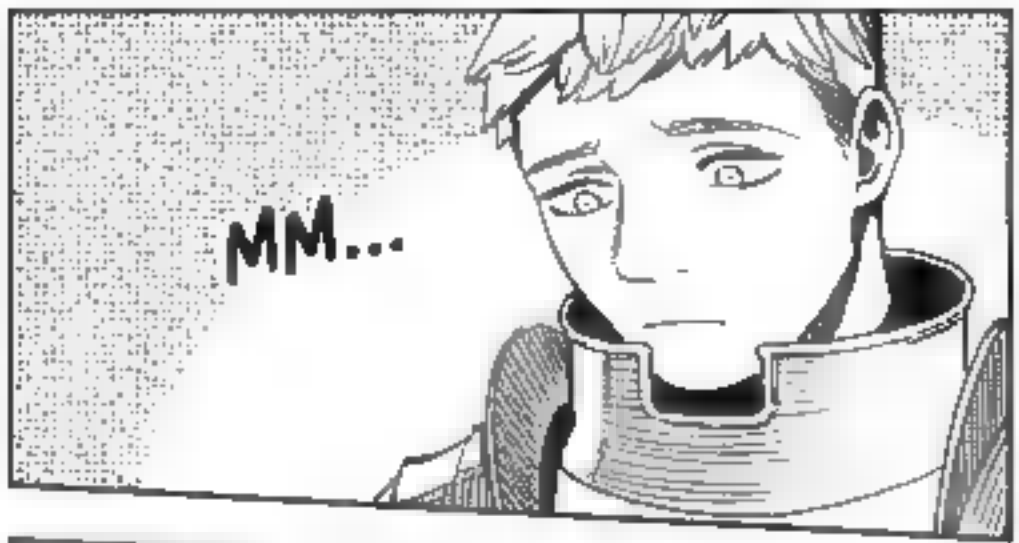
WHEN WE FIRST GOT HERE, THE GOLD-PEELERS WERE FLOURISHING...

...AND THERE WAS PLENTY OF GUARD WORK.

THAT NATURALLY LED US TO THE DUNGEON ...

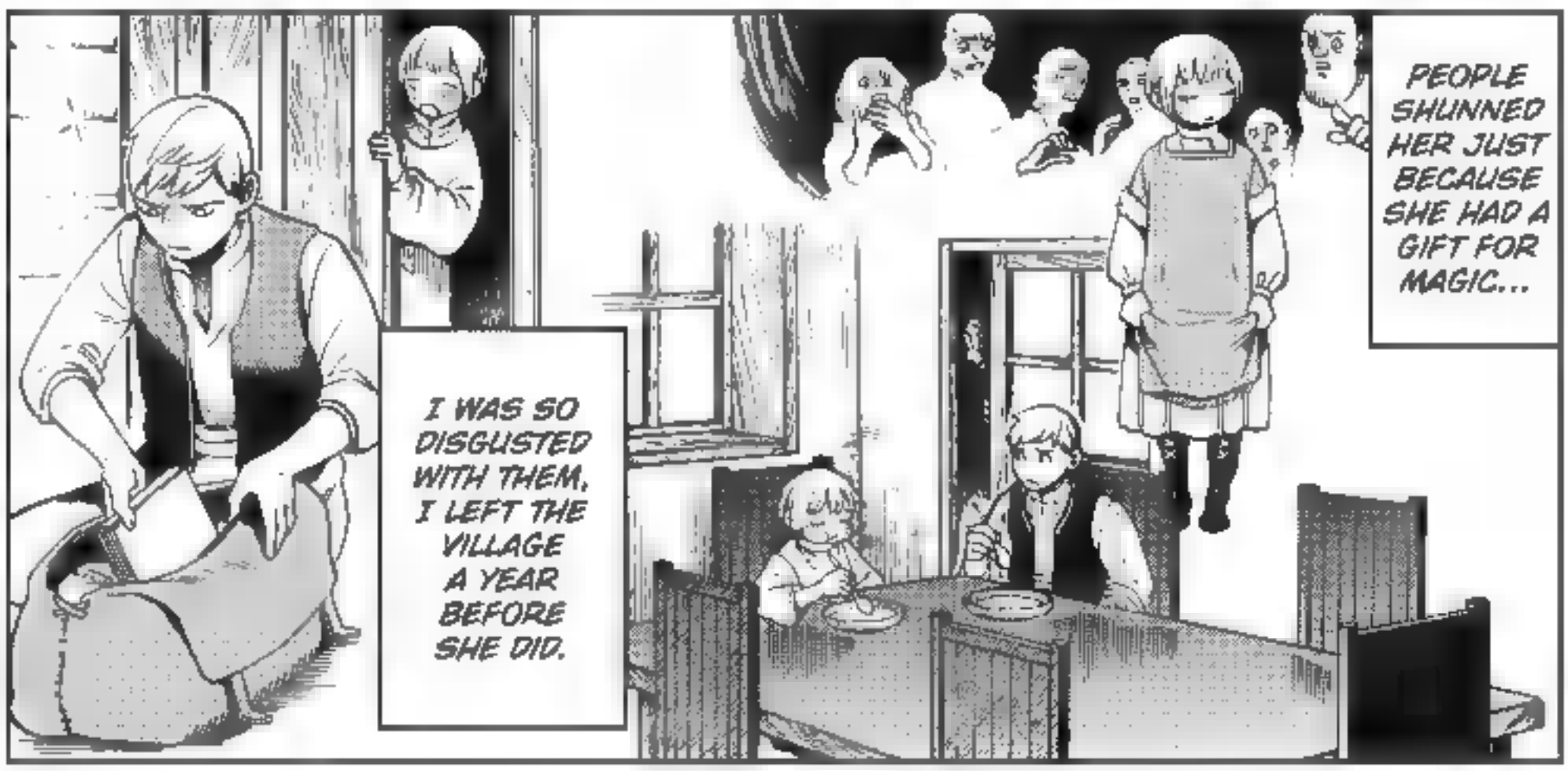
...AND HERE I AM.

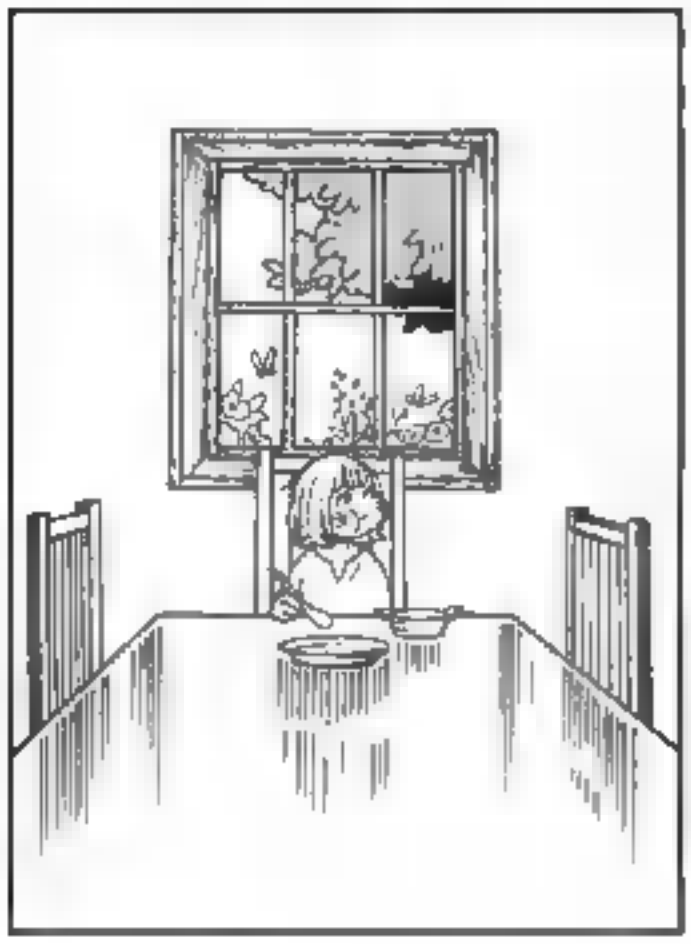
NOW THAT'S LIVING WITHOUT A PLAN.

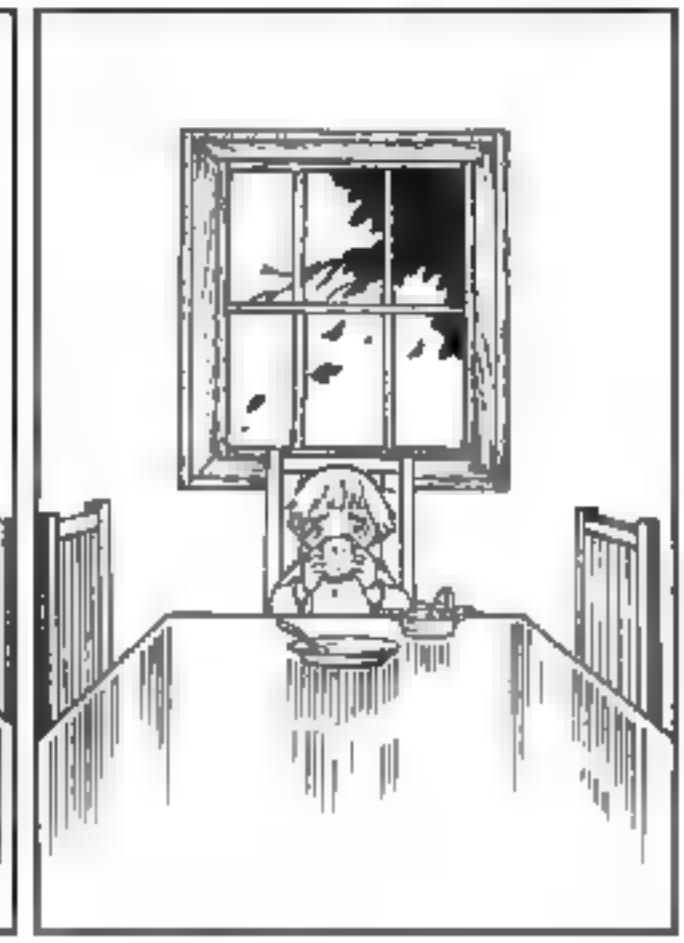

MM...

FALIN DIDN'T HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHILDHOOD.

YOU'RE ONE THING, BUT WHY YOUR SISTER?
WOULDN'T HER LIFE HAVE BEEN EASIER AT SCHOOL?

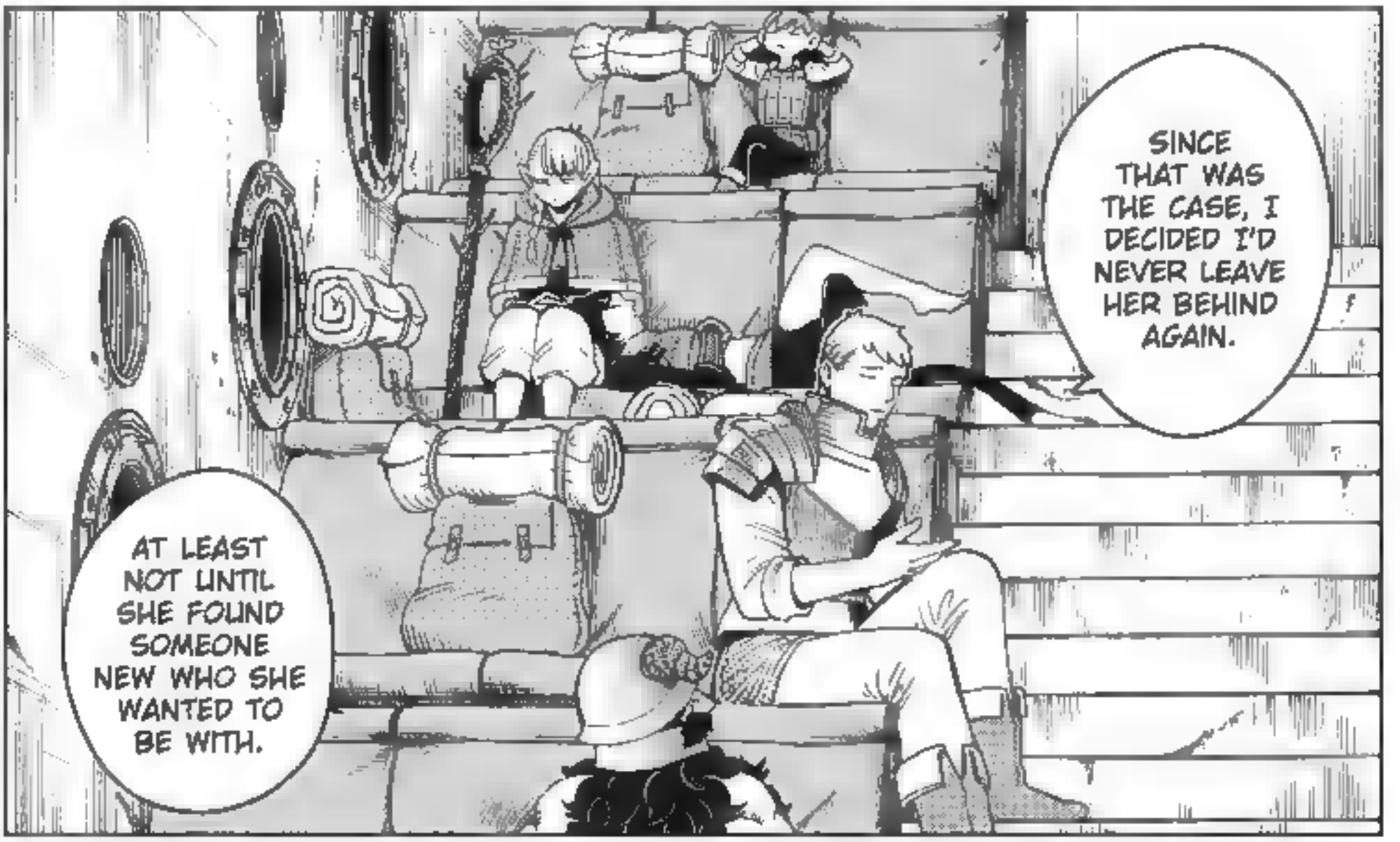

I WAS SO DISGUSTED WITH THEM, I LEFT THE VILLAGE A YEAR BEFORE SHE DID.
PEOPLE SHUNNED HER JUST BECAUSE SHE HAD A GIFT FOR MAGIC...





ADULTS...
MALICE...
SCARY...
...THOUGH, MENTALLY, SHE WAS MUCH TOUGHER THAN I WAS.
IT ACTUALLY MAY NOT HAVE BOTHERED HER MUCH, BUT EVEN SO.
I HEAR SHE AND OUR PARENTS STILL WRITE TO EACH OTHER.

UNTIL SHE STARTED MAGIC SCHOOL...
WELL, NO, UNTIL SHE MET MARCILLE, SHE ALWAYS ATE ALONE.
REMEM-BERING IT MAKES MY HEART ACHE.


SINCE THAT WAS THE CASE, I DECIDED I'D NEVER LEAVE HER BEHIND AGAIN.
AT LEAST NOT UNTIL SHE FOUND SOMEONE NEW WHO SHE WANTED TO BE WITH.

GYO (GAPE)

POTA (PLIP)

YEESH. QUIT WHISPERING AND SHUT UP.

WAH!
BA (JOLT)
WHAT GIVES? GROSS!

I'M WORKING RIGHT NOW.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHY SHE ALWAYS CAME TO ME.
MYSTERY HERBS...
MYSTERY NUTS...
FALIN ALWAYS BROUGHT ME ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

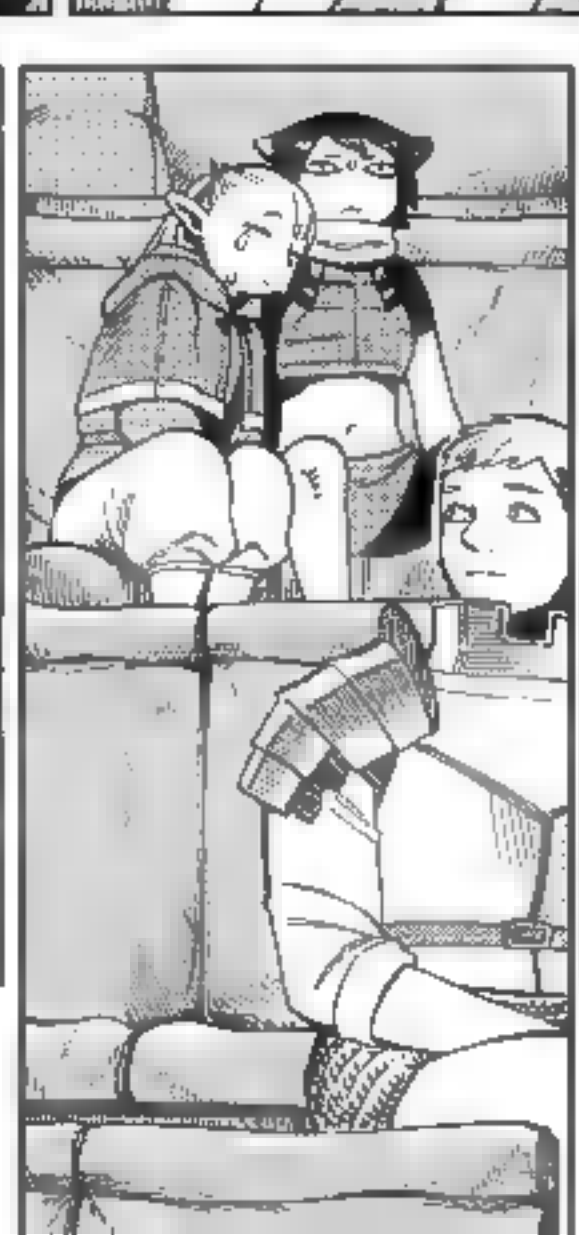
UNNH!
ボロ
BORO
ボロ
BORO (RIP)

SHE PROBABLY WANTED TO EAT THEM WITH YOU.
UU!

HISHI
(CLING)
ヒシッ!

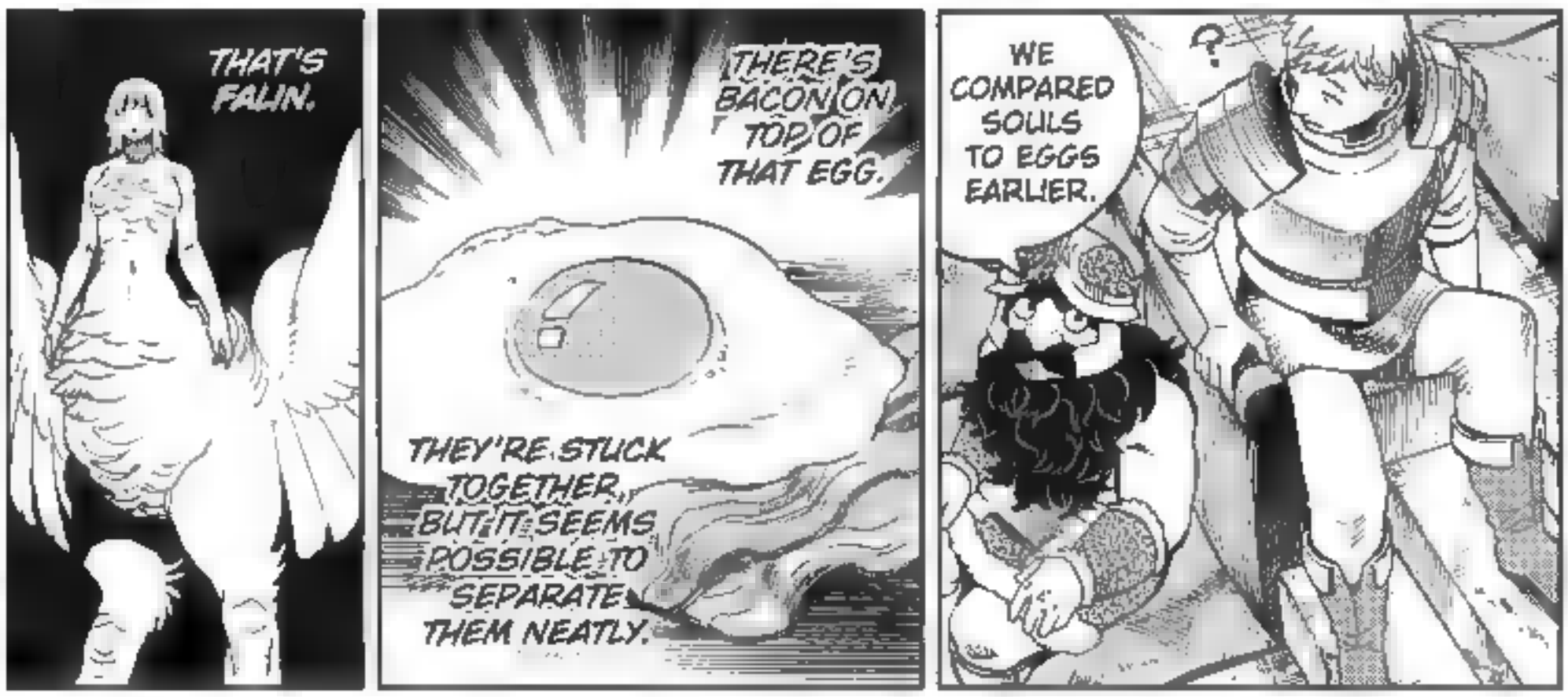
SASU
(RUB)
さすさす…
SASU
さすさす…

IT WON'T BE LONG.



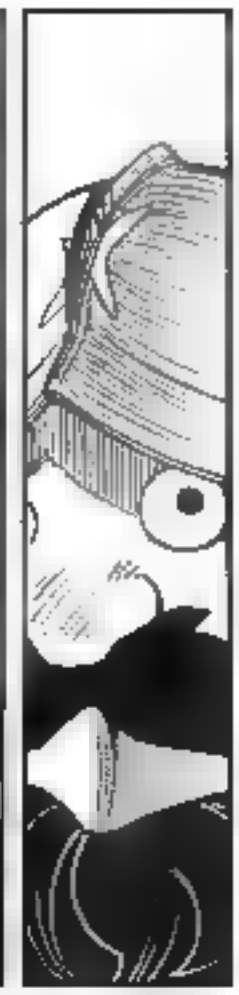
I WANT TO EAT WITH HER AGAIN SOON.
ずずっ
ZUZU
(SNURF)

TO MY MIND...
...FALIN IS CURRENTLY BACON AND EGGS.
HMM...

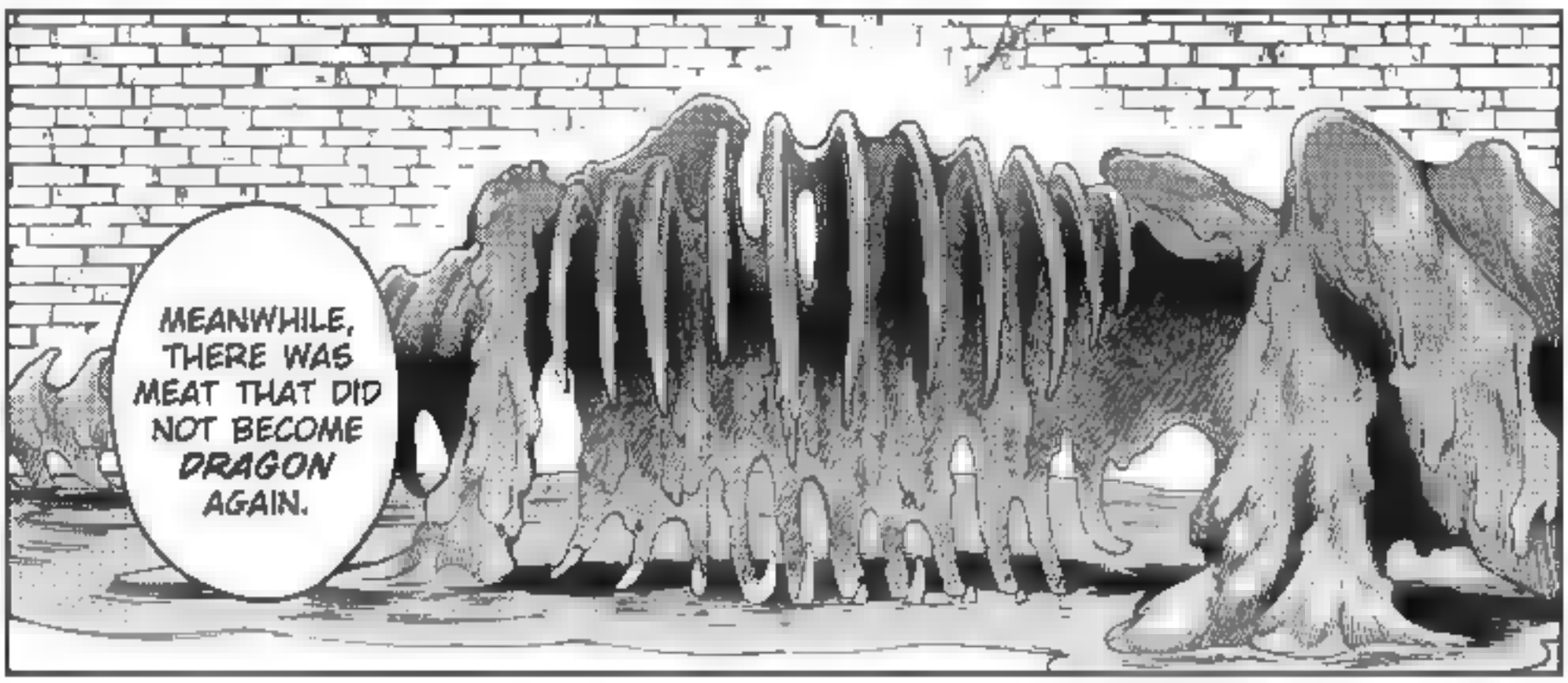

THAT'S FALIN.
THERE'S BACON ON TOP OF THAT EGG.
THEY'RE STUCK TOGETHER, BUT IT SEEMS POSSIBLE TO SEPARATE THEM NEATLY.
WE COMPARED SOULS TO EGGS EARLIER.
?

FOR THAT REASON, IN IZUTSUMI'S CASE...
...WE'LL NEED TO FIND A MORE CAREFUL, ELABORATE METHOD.
HM...
SO YOU'RE SAYING...
WITH HARD WORK, WE COULD REMOVE ALL THE ADD-INS...
IN CONTRAST, IZUTSUMI IS A MIXED OMELET.
...BUT YOU CAN EASILY IMAGINE HOW RAGGED THAT WOULD LEAVE THE EGG.

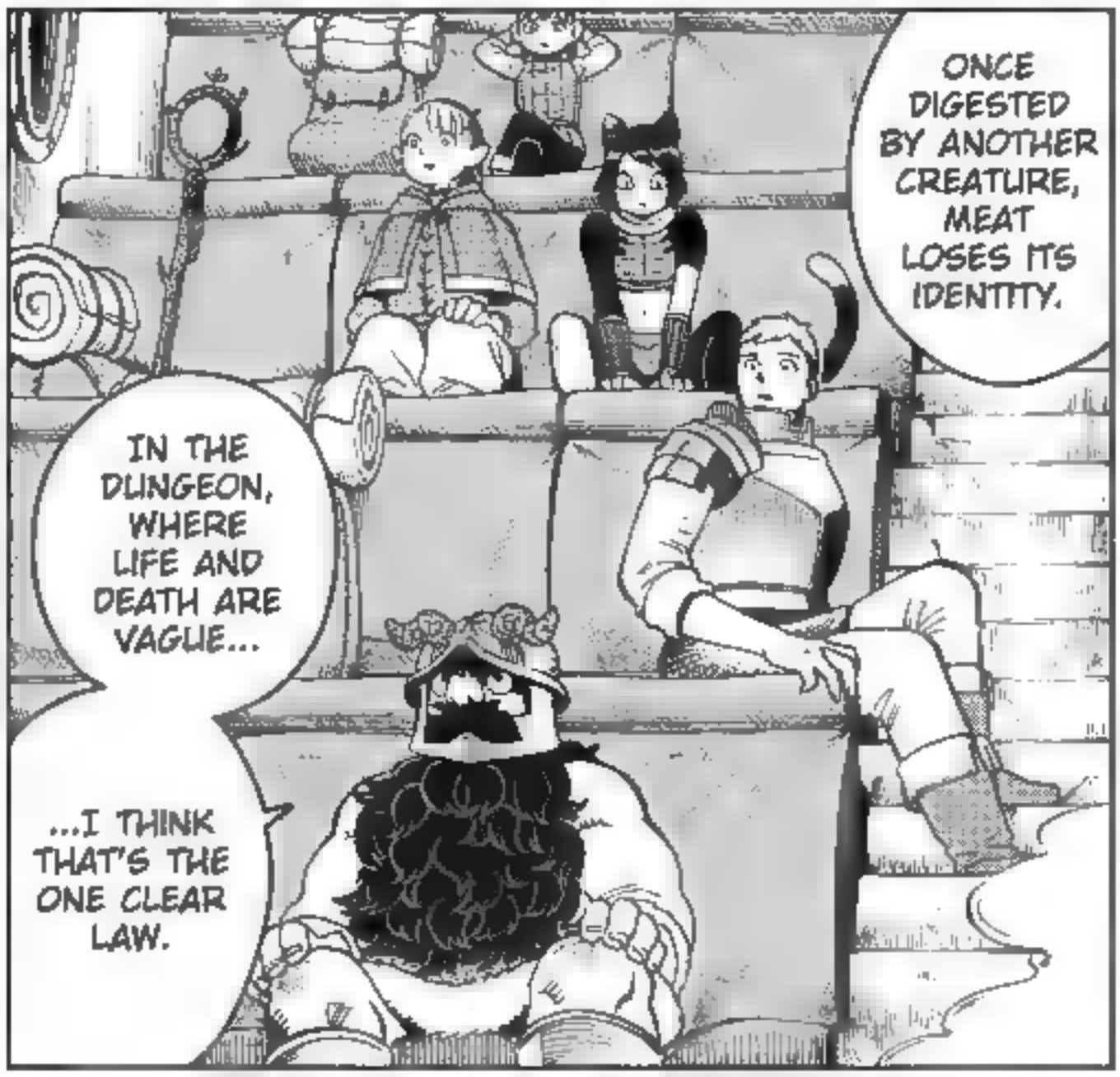
...I'D PRESERVED SOME OF THE DRAGON MEAT...
...BUT IT ALL REVERTED TO FLESH AND BLOOD AND FUSED WITH FALIN.
BACK THEN...



Cut!
...IF WE CUT AWAY THAT DRACONIC LOWER HALF, WE CAN MAKE FALIN HUMAN AGAIN?
IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THAT SIMPLE.


MEANWHILE, THERE WAS MEAT THAT DID NOT BECOME DRAGON AGAIN.

THE PARTS WE'D EATEN AT DINNER.


ONCE DIGESTED BY ANOTHER CREATURE, MEAT LOSES ITS IDENTITY.
IN THE DUNGEON, WHERE LIFE AND DEATH ARE VAGUE...
...I THINK THAT'S THE ONE CLEAR LAW.

.....

IN THAT CASE, IF WE ATE ALL OF THE DRAGON...
...COULDN'T WE DRIVE THE SOUL ITSELF AWAY?

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE AGAINST IT.
I'M STILL AGAINST RESUR-RECTING PEOPLE.

I NEVER WOULD'VE EXPECTED THAT OUT OF YOU, SENSHI.
WELL, I...
HA-HA...

WHA...?

EAT ALL OF THE DRAGON...
B-BUT THAT WOULD BE...

YOU SIMPLY WANT TO FREE HER FROM THE DUNGEON.
BUT FALIN IS ALIVE NOW.

I'LL GLADLY HELP YOU WITH THAT.

HOW MANY MEALS WOULD THAT TAKE?

THAT IS NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!!!

THIS IS OUR MOST PROMISING PLAN YET!!

EEP!

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS !?

NO, THAT'S IT EXACTLY !!!

GA (SNAP)

IT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING ALL ALONG!

OF COURSE. WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?

YOU EAT WHAT YOU KILL, TO MAKE IT YOURS...

ONLY...

DO I LOOK LIKE I COULD EAT A KILO?
IN TERMS OF FALIN'S HEALTH TOO, WE'LL NEVER HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME.

IT'S ENORMOUS. IF IT'S OVER THREE TONS...
...AND THE FIVE OF US MANAGE ONE KILO A DAY EACH, IT WILL TAKE CLOSE TO TWO YEARS.

YOU THINK I HAVE FRIENDS ?
IT'S NOT AS IF YOU HAVE NONE.
HERE.
DOESN'T ANYONE COME TO MIND?

ASK OTHERS TO HELP, THEN.
THIS IS WHERE THE NETWORK YOU'VE BUILT COMES IN.

THEY SEEM LIKE THEY'D EAT A LOT, SO THAT'S PROMISING.

THE ORCS.

...BUT THEIR NUMBERS AND LIVESTOCK CAN COVER FOR THAT.

THE RESIDENTS OF THE GOLDEN CASTLE.

THEY DON'T HAVE THE BIGGEST APPETITES...

OH! KABRU ALSO SEEMED INTERESTED ■ EATING MONSTERS.

WE'LL WHAT?

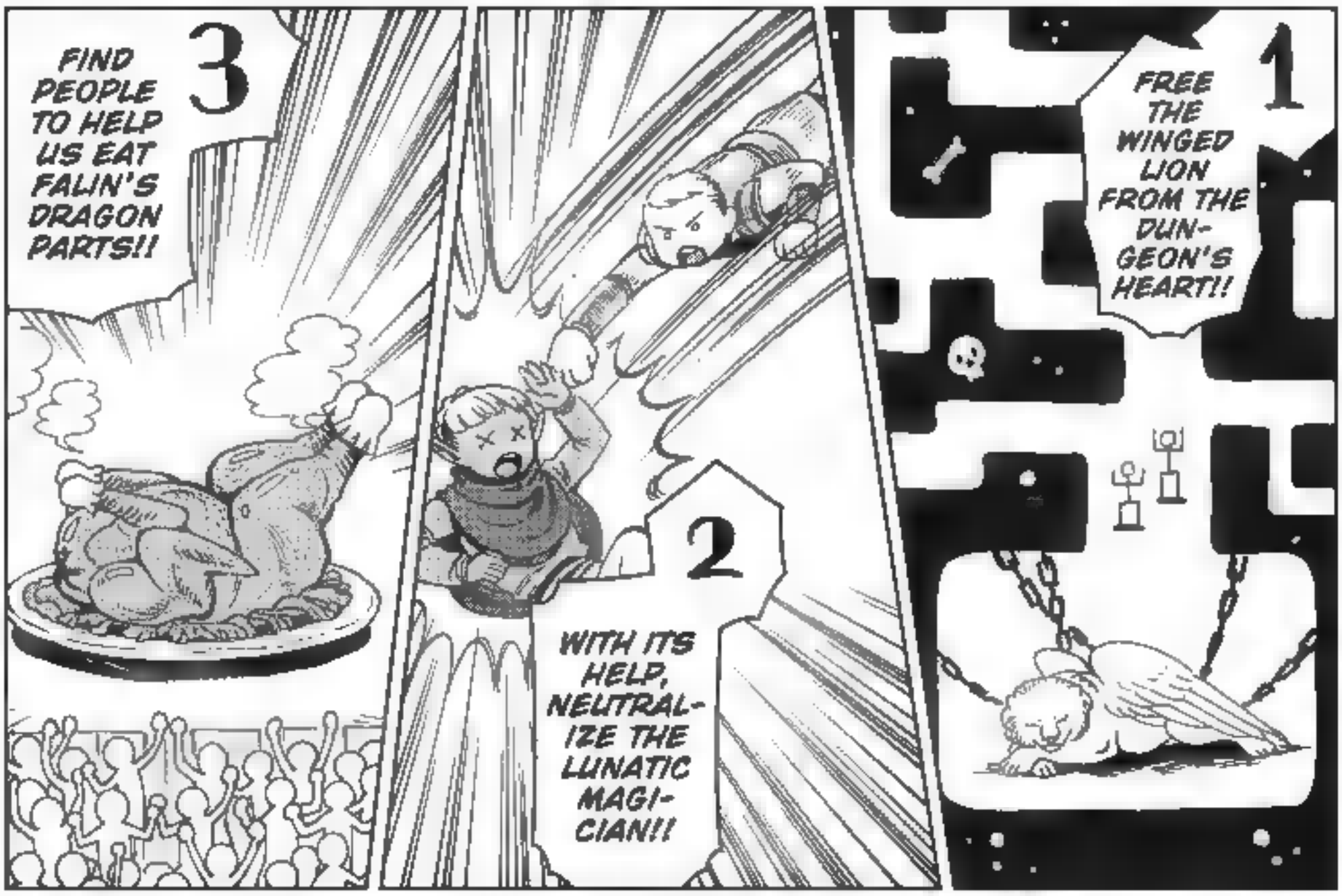
THEN THERE'S NAMARI AND SHURO'S GROUP.

IF WE APPEAL TO THEIR EMOTIONS, THOSE TWO WILL COME THROUGH.

I'D LIKE ANOTHER COMPANY OF SOLDIERS, BUT...
WELL, AT LEAST OUR GOALS ARE CLEAR NOW.

SEE? YOU DO HAVE SOME.
NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH TO EAT IT ALL.

...AT THE MOMENT, THAT'S ABOUT IT.


3
FIND PEOPLE TO HELP US EAT FALIN'S DRAGON PARTS!!
2
WITH ITS HELP, NEUTRALIZE THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN!!
1
FREE THE WINGED LION FROM THE DUNGEON'S HEART!!

YOU WON'T FIND ANY COMPANIES IN THE DUNGEON.
THAT'S GOING TO BE ONE HECK OF A PARTY.
ALL OF A SUDDEN, I FEEL LIKE THIS'LL WORK...

Chapter 52: The End

53. On Floor One -1-

WHA...?

GAYA (MURMUR) ガヤ

GAYA ガヤ

HEYYY!

OVER HERE!

WAA (CHATTER)

I'LL CUT YOU A DEAL.

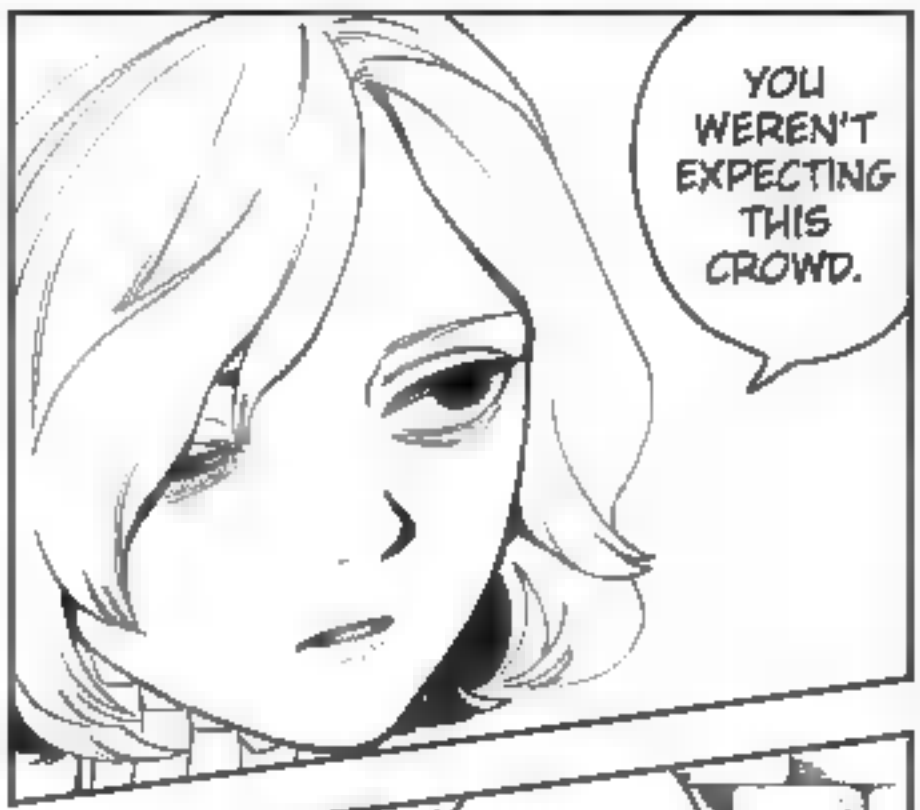
WAA

IT'S CHANGED THIS MUCH IN SUCH A SHORT TIME?

WOW...

LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE.

...THE ECONOMY TURNS, AND MORE PEOPLE SHOW UP.
MORE PEOPLE ARE BUNKING DOWN IN HERE.
PEOPLE COME TO TRADE WITH THEM...
...SO MORE PEOPLE CAME. THE TOWN'S PACKED.
THEY SAY THERE'S GOLD EVEN ON FLOOR ONE LATELY...
IF EVEN A FEW MORE PEOPLE COME DOWN HERE, THEN...
IT'S JUST LIKE BACK THEN. ALL OF IT.
—SO?
ZOWA (SHIVER)

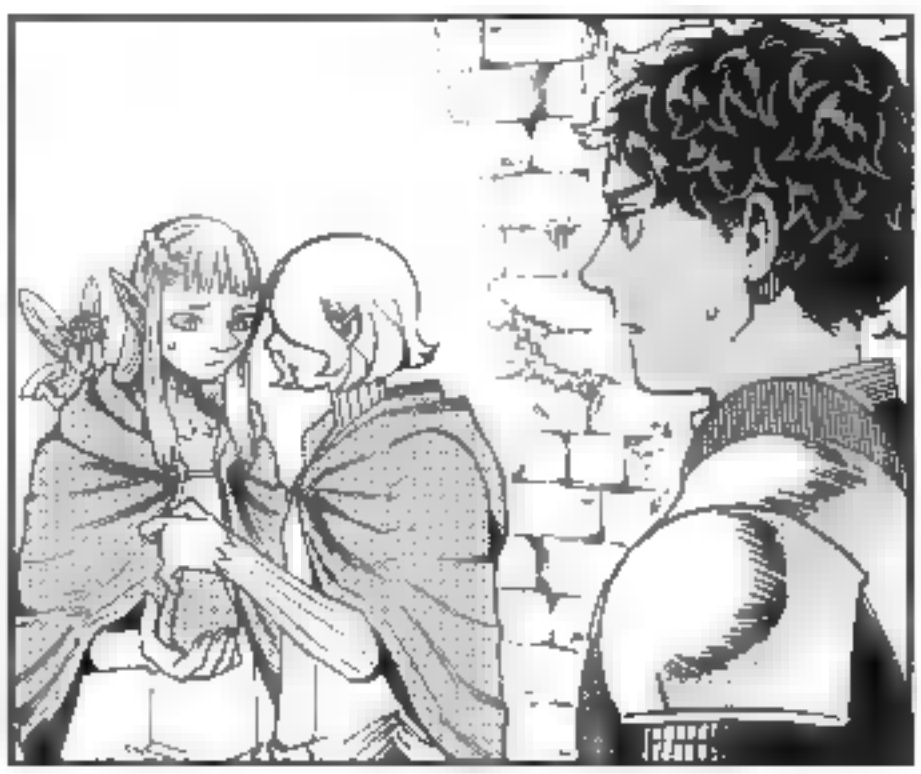

YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING THIS CROWD.

WE CAN HELP YOU "REDUCE" IT...
NO NEED.

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET ALL OF THEM BACK ABOVE-GROUND?

CITHIS, YOU COME TOO.
I'LL GO WITH YOU.
SURE.

YOUR CONNEC-TION. RIGHT.
I'LL ASK THE MAN WHO CONTROLS THE ISLAND'S UNDERBELLY FOR HELP.
HE HAS GREATER CHARISMA AND INFLUENCE HERE THAN THE ISLAND'S LORD.

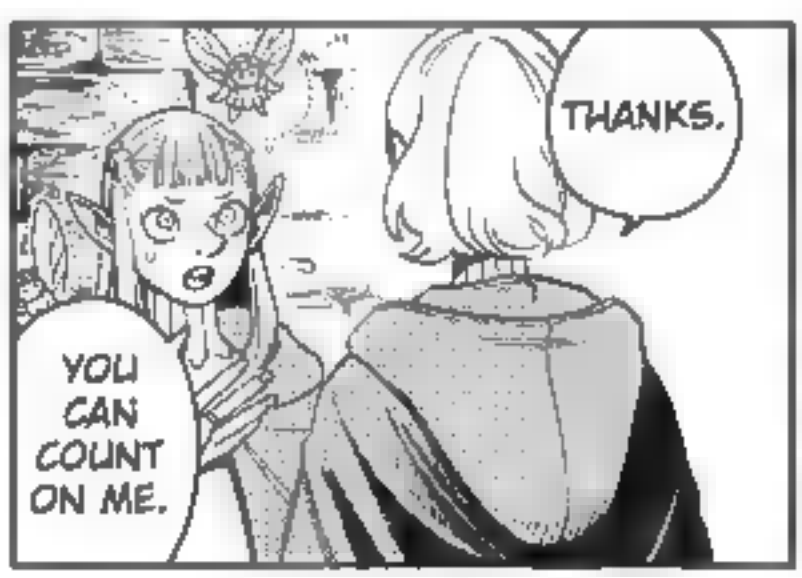


KUI (FLICK)
AND ALSO...
PATTADOL, YOU WAIT HERE WITH THE REST.
BOSO (MUTTER)

TOSHIRO, NAMARI.
THEY MAY BE PLANNING TO CALL REIN-FORCE-MENTS.
WHILE I'M GONE, DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THEM.

WHAT WAS THAT...?

TRYING TO FORCE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE WILL CAUSE NEEDLESS BLOOD-SHED.
WE HAVE TO AVOID THAT.


THANKS.
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

ちら
CHIRA (GLANCE)

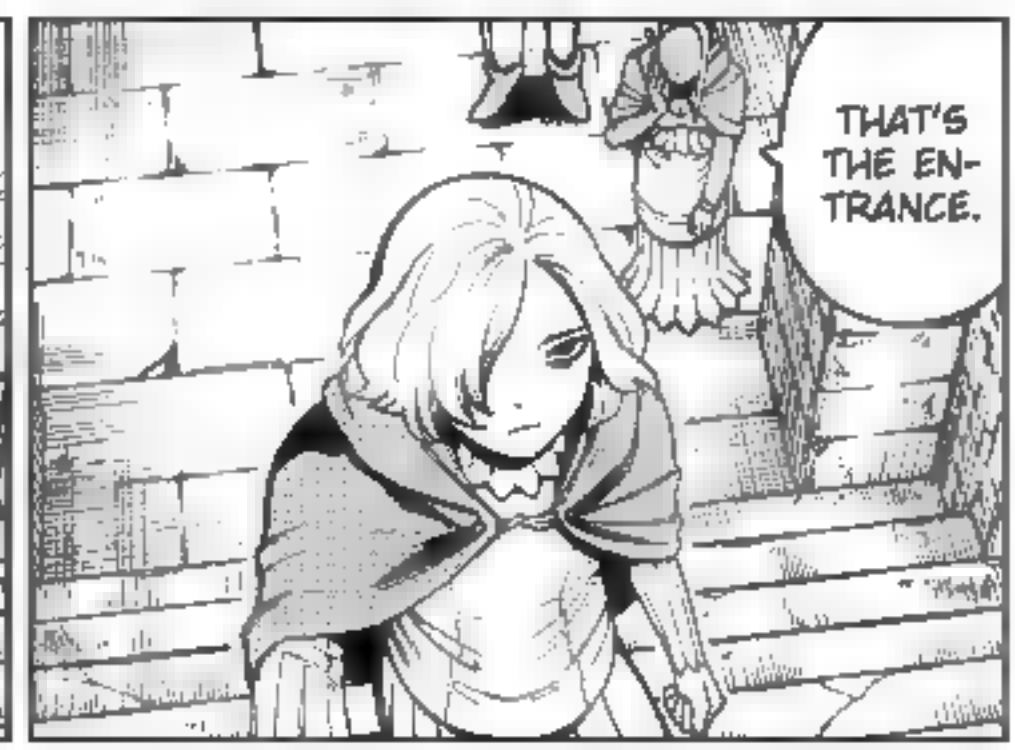
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT USING PEOPLE, HUH?
PLEASE.

COME ON, LET'S GO.
GO WHERE?

NOW, THEN. SHALL WE GO?

CAPTAIN.

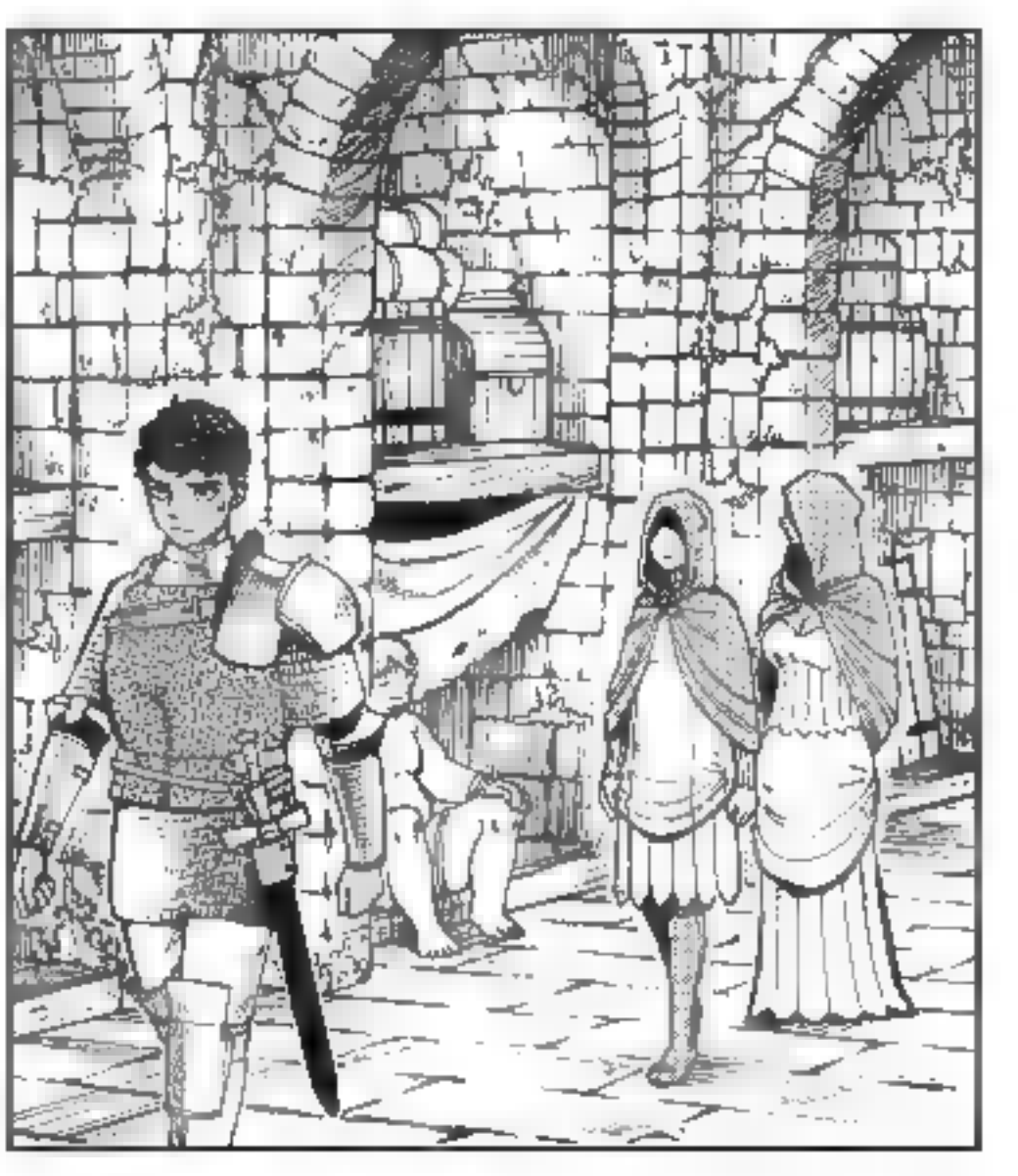
ZA
(STRIDE)


THAT'S THE EN-TRANCE.

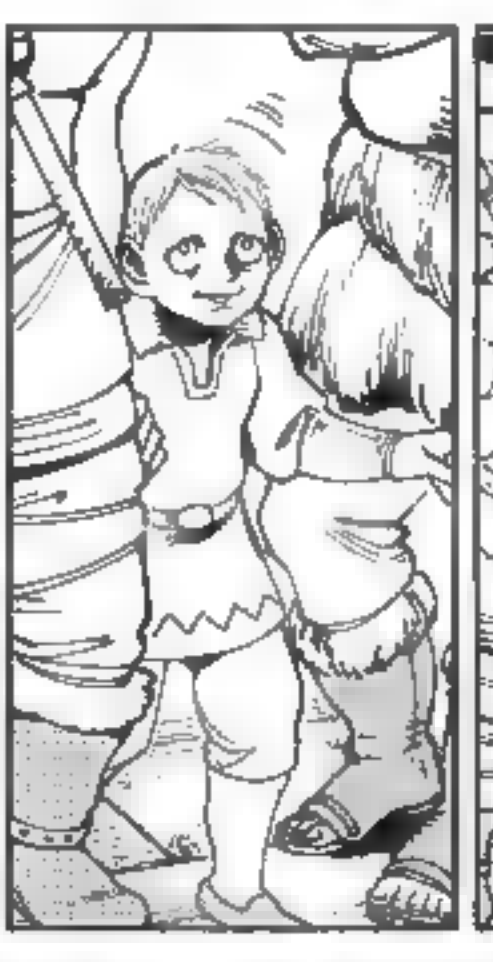
YOUR JOB IS EXPLORING DUNGEONS, AND YOUR CAPTAIN HAS NO SENSE OF DIRECTION!?
ARE THEY REALLY THE CANARIES?

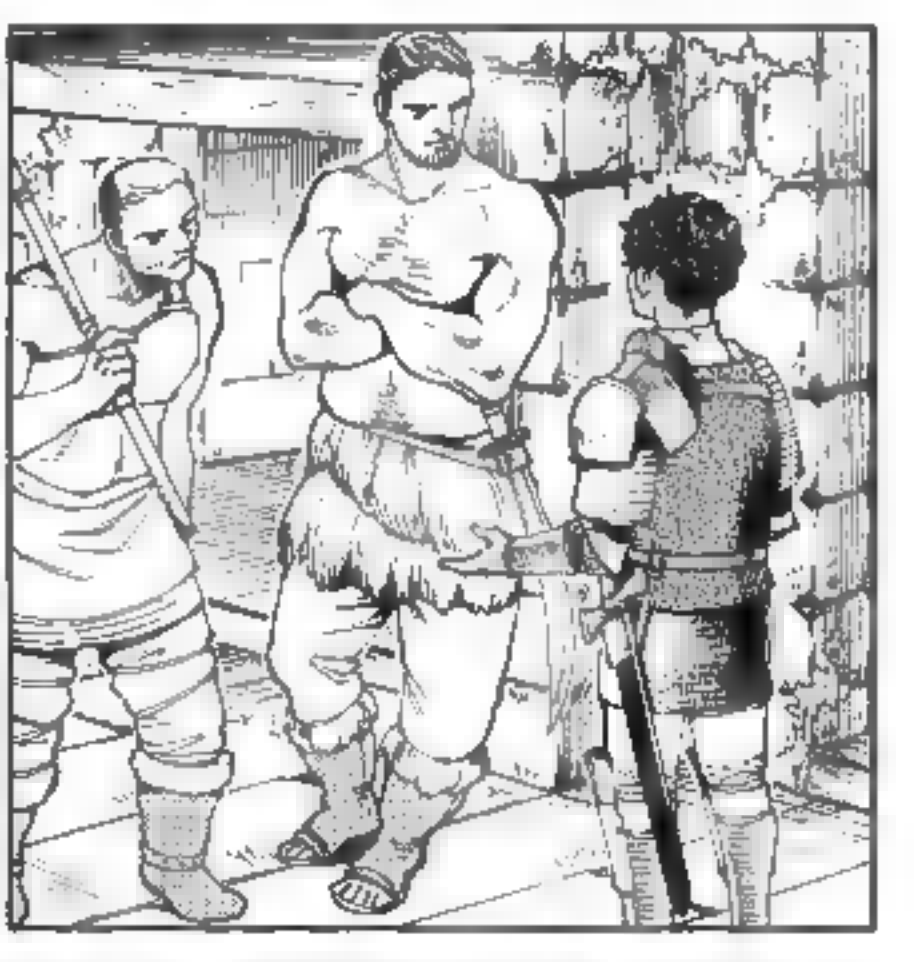
ZA

HEE!
WAH HA!



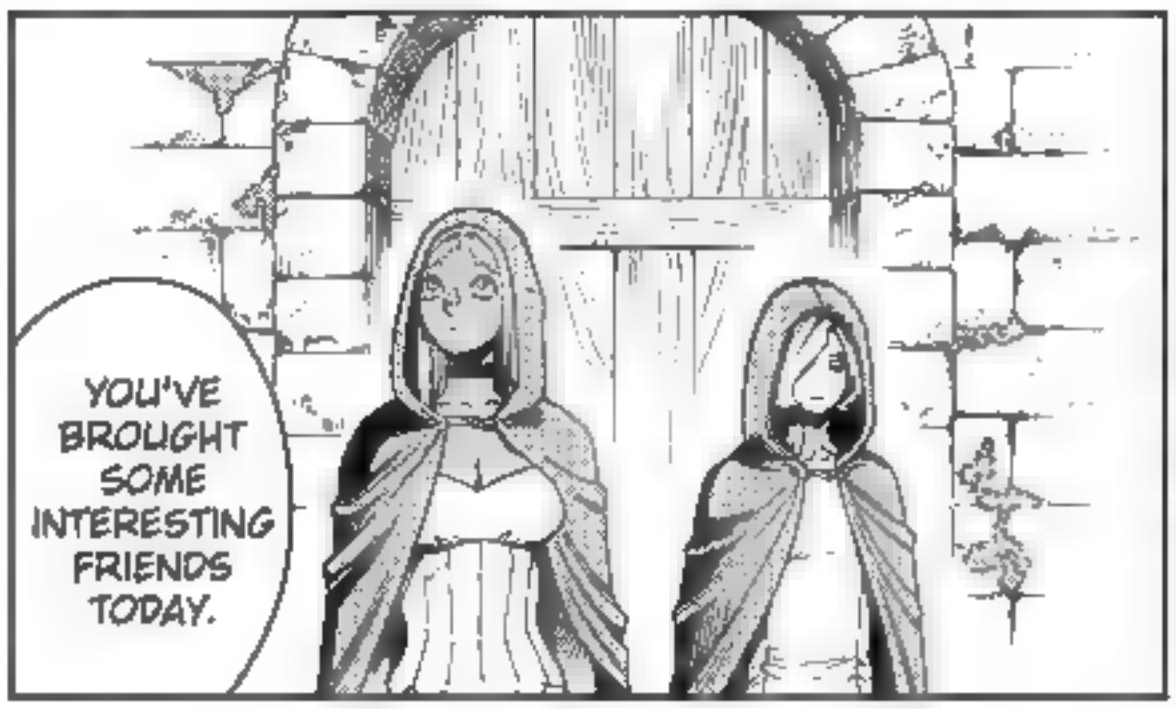
EVEN CHILDREN ...
KYA HA HA!





KABRU!

IT'S BEEN AGES, MY BOY!

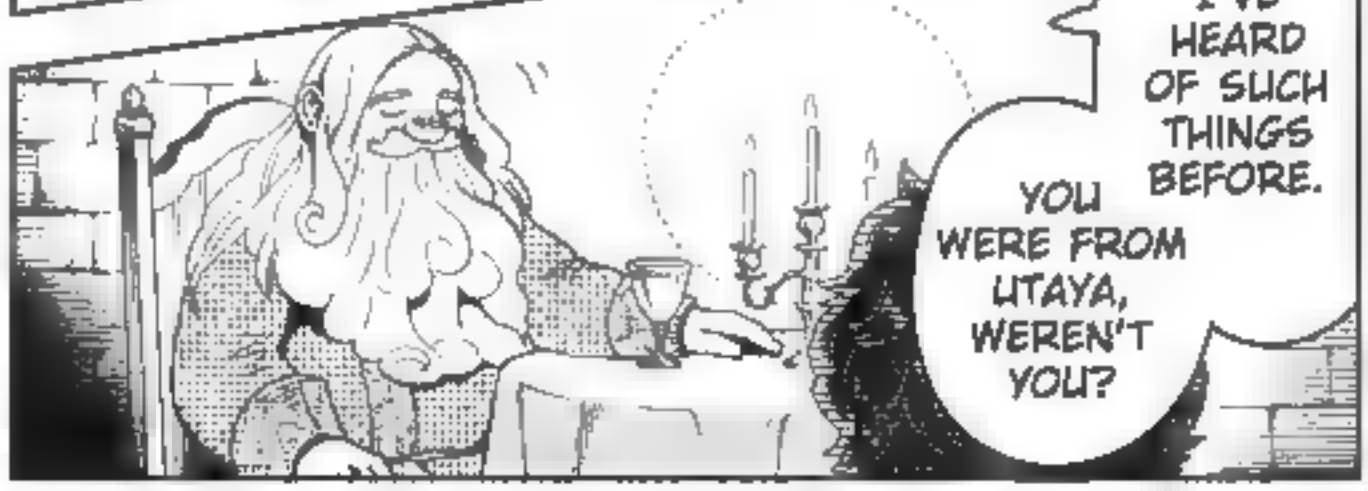


AS YOU KNOW, THE POPULATION HAS INCREASED ABRUPTLY RECENTLY.
THAT'S A VERY DAN-GEROUS SIGN.

I ACTUALLY CAME TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU.
OH-HO. WHAT IS IT?
ASK FOR ANY-THING.

IN THE END, THE MONSTERS ENGULF THE LAND ABOVE...
...AND MUCH BLOOD IS SPILLED.

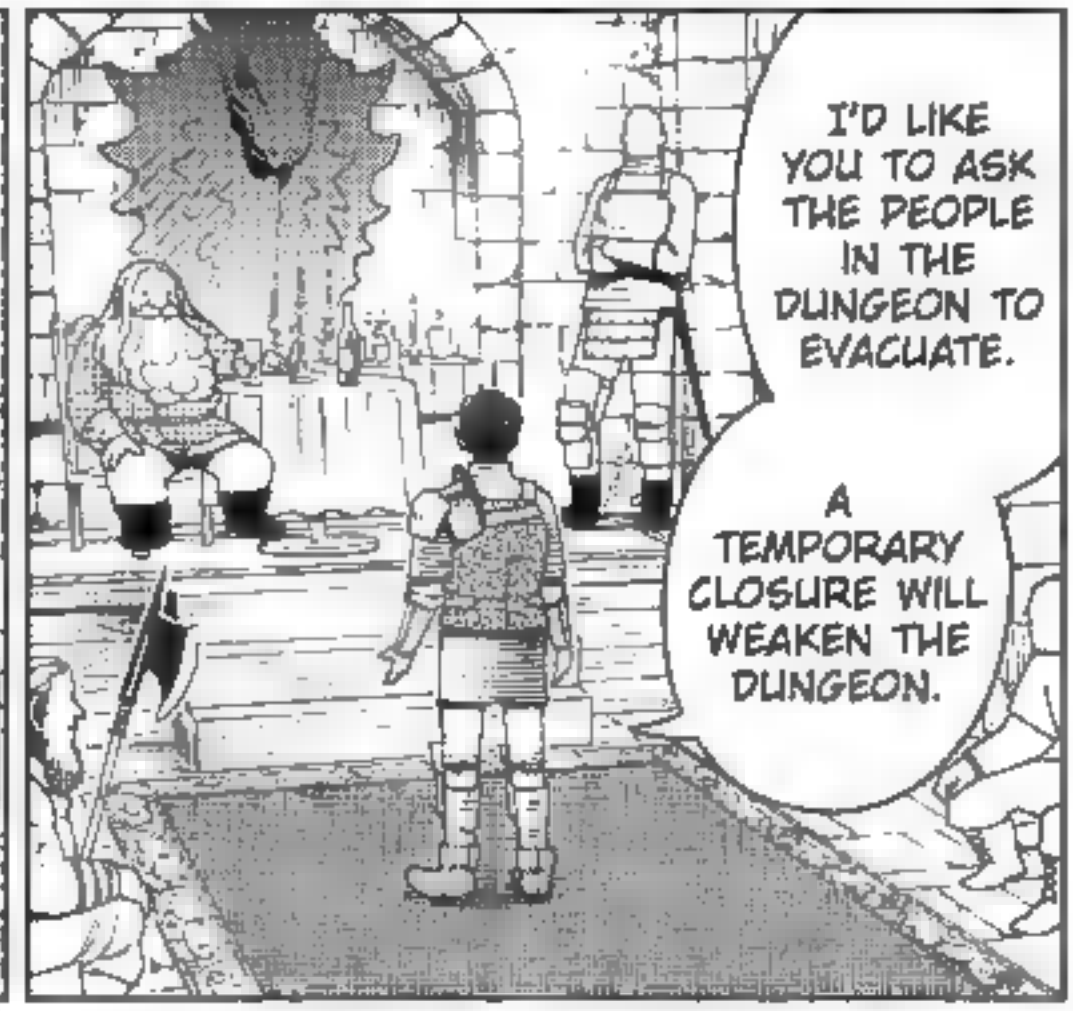
AS THE POPULATION GROWS, THE DUNGEON EXPANDS.
SOME-TIMES IT GENERATES RICHES, BUT IT ALSO SPAWNS STRONG MONSTERS.

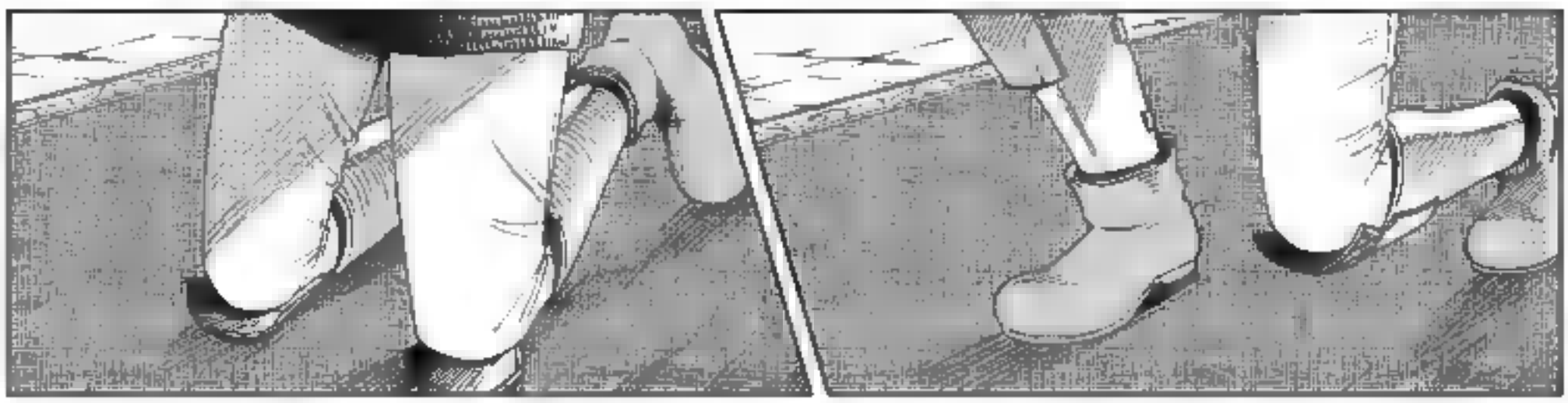

I'VE HEARD OF SUCH THINGS BEFORE.
YOU WERE FROM UTAYA, WEREN'T YOU?

HM...

THAT MUST HAVE [redacted] PAINFUL.

AFTER THAT, THEY CAN RETURN.
IN THE INTERIM, THEIR LIVELIHOODS WILL BE GUARAN-TEED.


I'D LIKE YOU TO ASK THE PEOPLE IN THE DUNGEON TO EVACUATE.
A TEMPORARY CLOSURE WILL WEAKEN THE DUNGEON.



OH, KABRU.
RAISE YOUR HEAD.

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
BUT...

PLEASE, LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH.

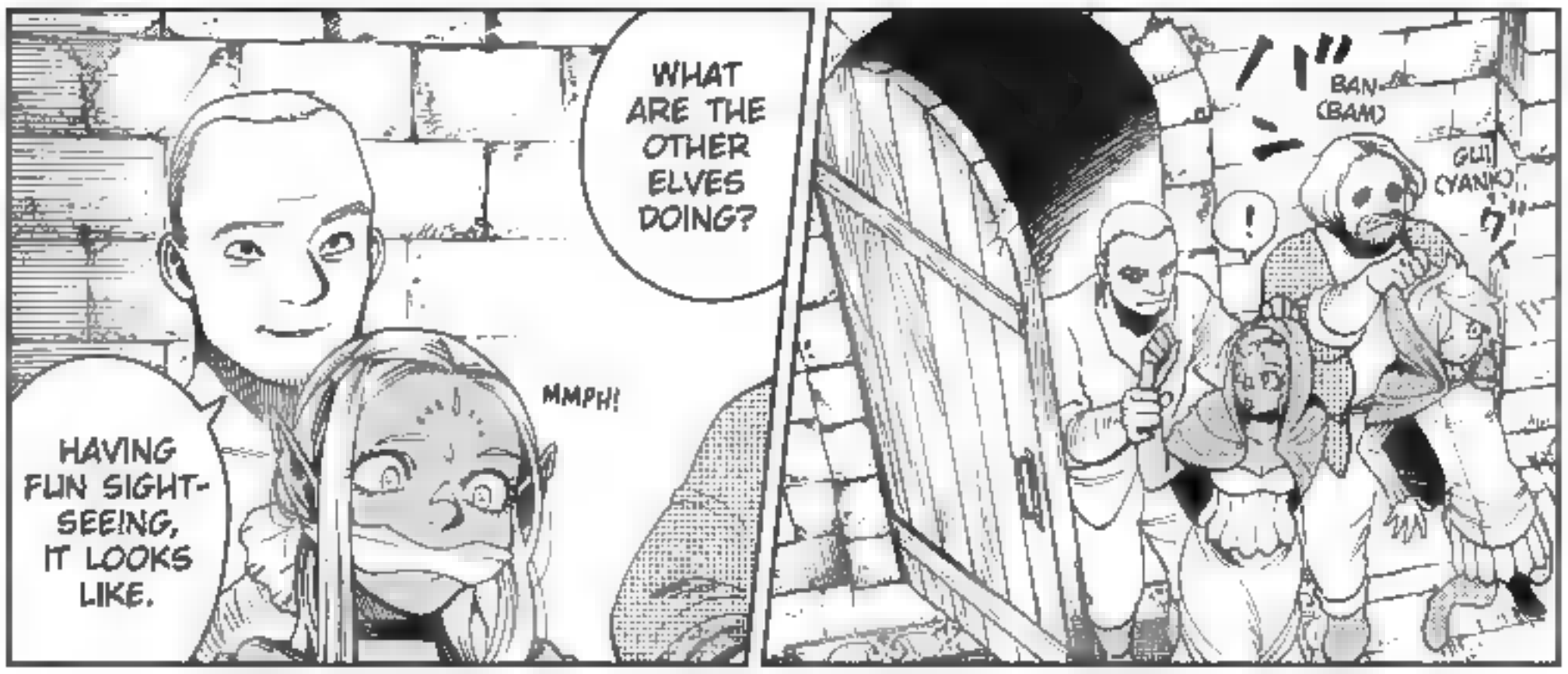
...I DON'T CARE.

WHAT GOOD IS A DUNGEON WITH NOTHING BUT WALKING MUSHROOMS?
IF THE DUNGEON WEAKENS, WILL WE BE ABLE TO HARVEST AS MUCH GOLD AS WE DO NOW?
WHAT OF IT?
EXPANSION, MONSTERS...

NO ONE CAN RUN US OUT OF HERE.
THAT INCLUDES YOU, ELVES.

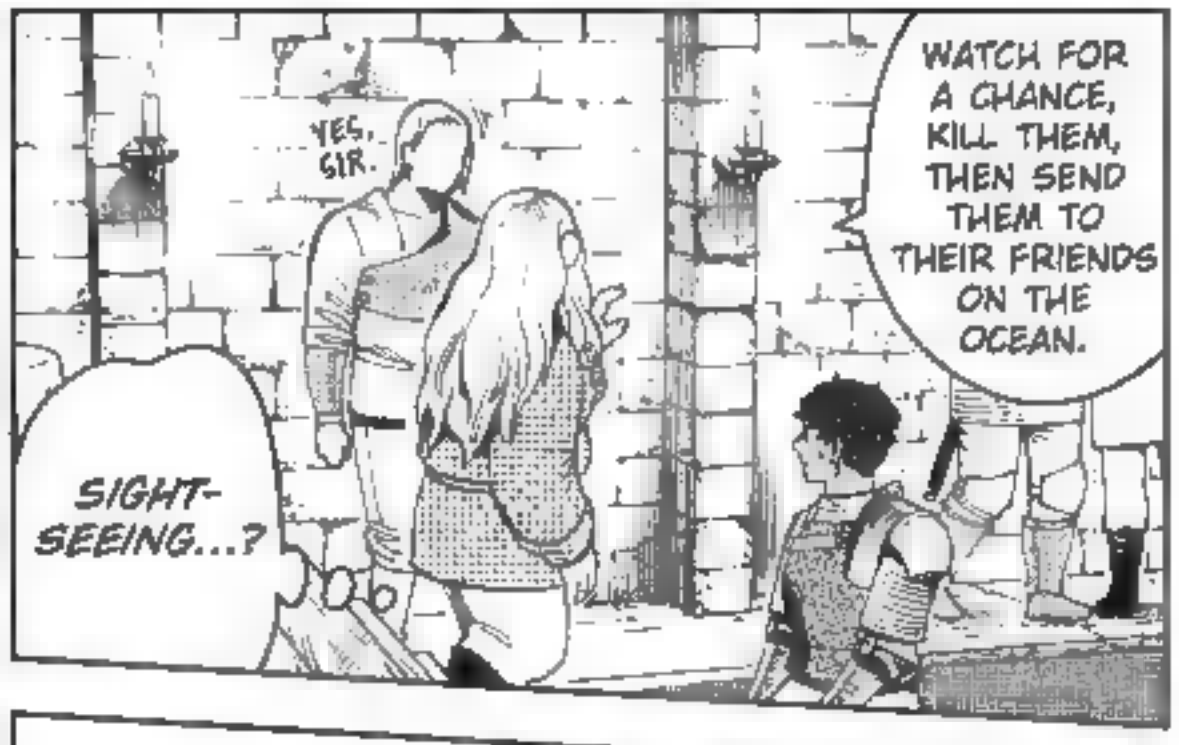
THE PEOPLE WHO CRAWL AROUND THE DUNGEON...
...AREN'T JUST DOING IT TO EARN THEIR DAILY BREAD.

LISTEN, BOY. IN HERE, FELLOWS WHO'VE NEVER ONCE SLEPT UNDER A ROOF...
...CAN EARN ENOUGH TO BUY A SHIP IN A SINGLE NIGHT.

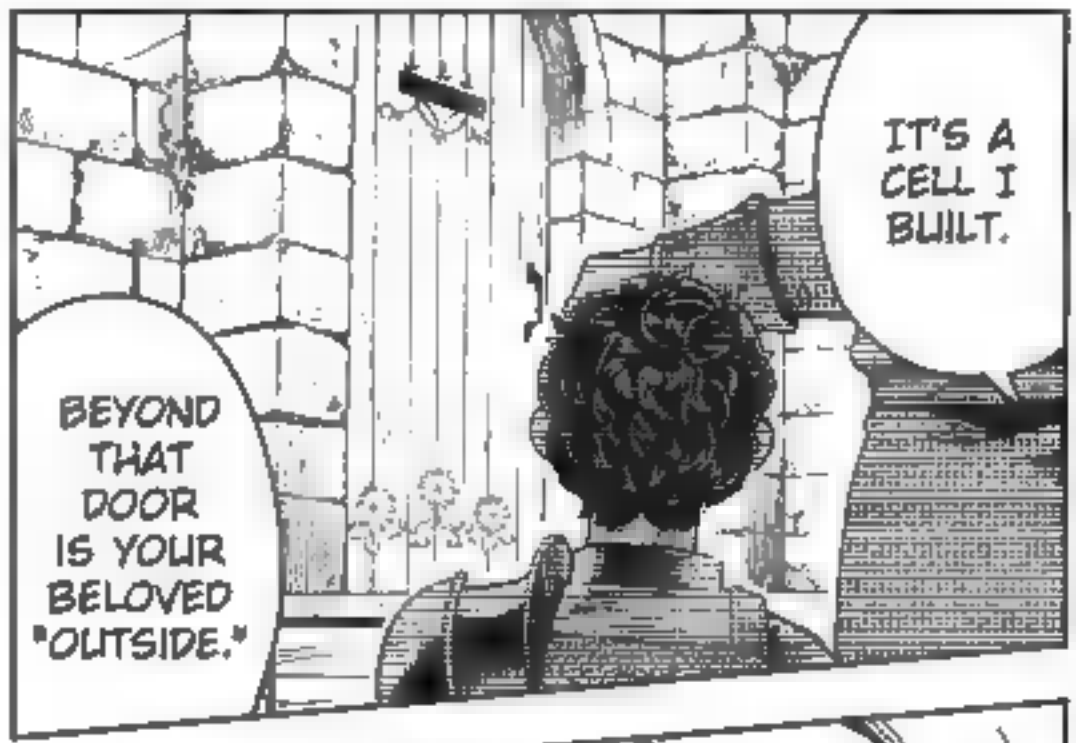

WHAT ARE THE OTHER ELVES DOING?
HAVING FUN SIGHT-SEEING, IT LOOKS LIKE.
MMPH!
BAN-(BAM)
GUI (YANK)
!

...DOING ANYTHING BAD.
WELL, THEY'RE NOT...
THEY'RE BUYING UP MANUSCRIPTS AND INCENSE, TOURING THE FOOD STALLS...
I HEAR THEY'RE TOSSING MONEY AROUND AT THE DEMIHUMAN SLAVE MARKET NOW.

LOOK OVER THERE.


YES, SIR.
WATCH FOR A CHANCE, KILL THEM, THEN SEND THEM TO THEIR FRIENDS ON THE OCEAN.
SIGHT-SEEING...?

GUI (YANK)


IT'S A CELL I BUILT.
BEYOND THAT DOOR IS YOUR BELOVED "OUTSIDE."

CORPSES THROWN IN THERE WILL NEVER RESURRECT AGAIN.

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HAPPENS IF A BODY IS REVIVED WHEN ONLY HALF OF IT IS IN THE DUNGEON?
SHOULD I TEST IT ON YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS?
THE QUESTION'S BEEN ON MY MIND FOR A WHILE.

UGHK!
DO (WHUD)

HEE HEE HEE!
YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE LANDED, HUH?
べろーり
BERORI (LICK)

OH. HE'S...
THE DUN-GEON'S ALREADY ...

GURAA
(TILT)

PARA
(CRMBL)
ハラ…
ZAWA
(MURMUR)
WHY, YOU...
PETRIFI-
CATION
MAGIC!?
わっ

DOSHA
(KSSSH)
BORO
(CRUMBLE)
BORO

KILL
IT!
DON'T
LET THAT
ELF
FOCUS!

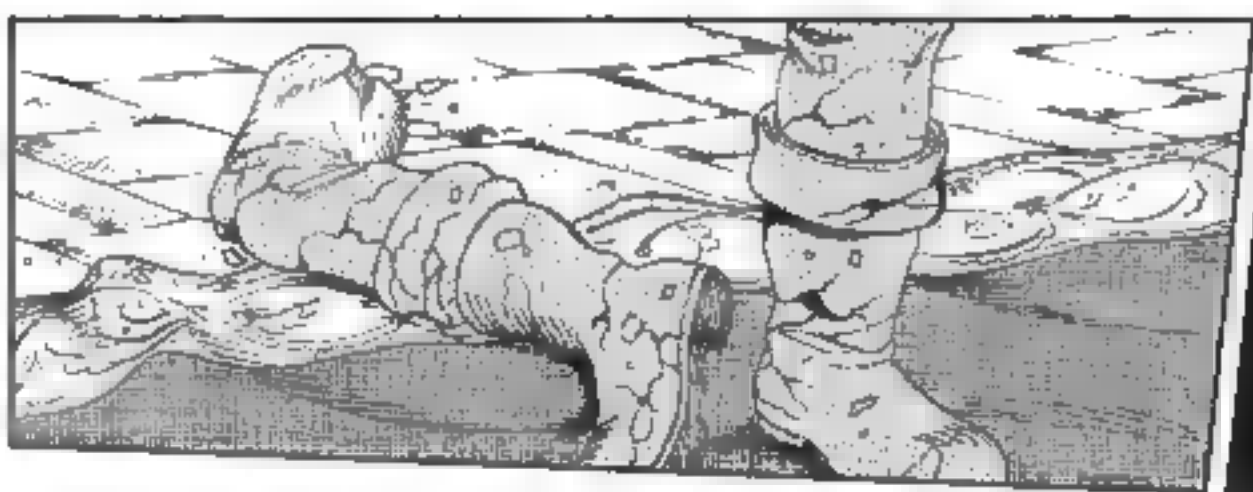
DO
(WHUD)

GUWA (LOOM)
GYURU (TWIRL)
GU (PUSH)
FU (FFT)
PAN (SMAK)
GOTO (CLUNK)
TON (TMP)

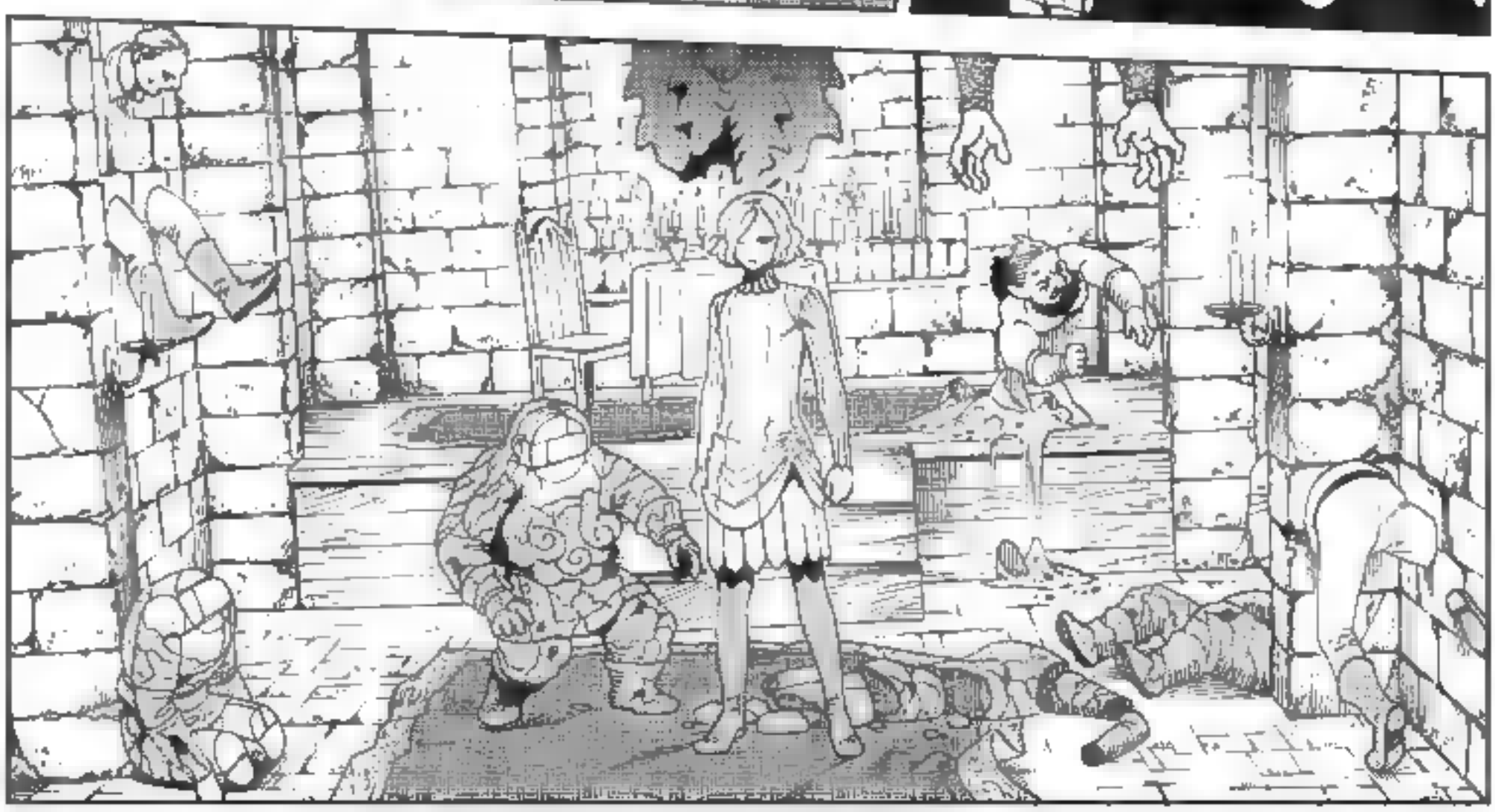
JUST THE LEGS...!

SOME-THING'S OFF.

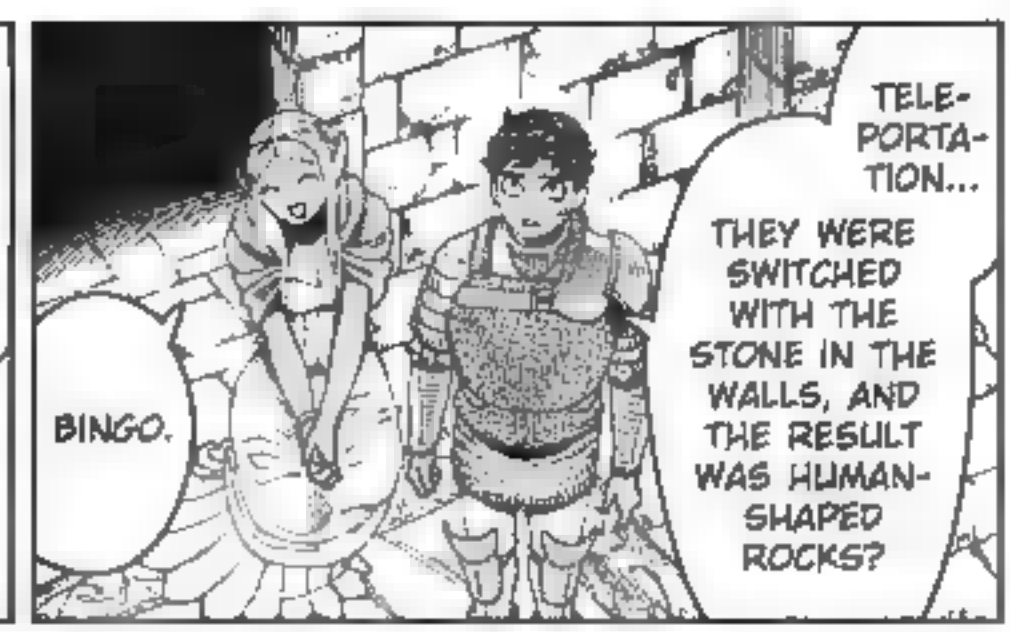
LET ME DOWN...

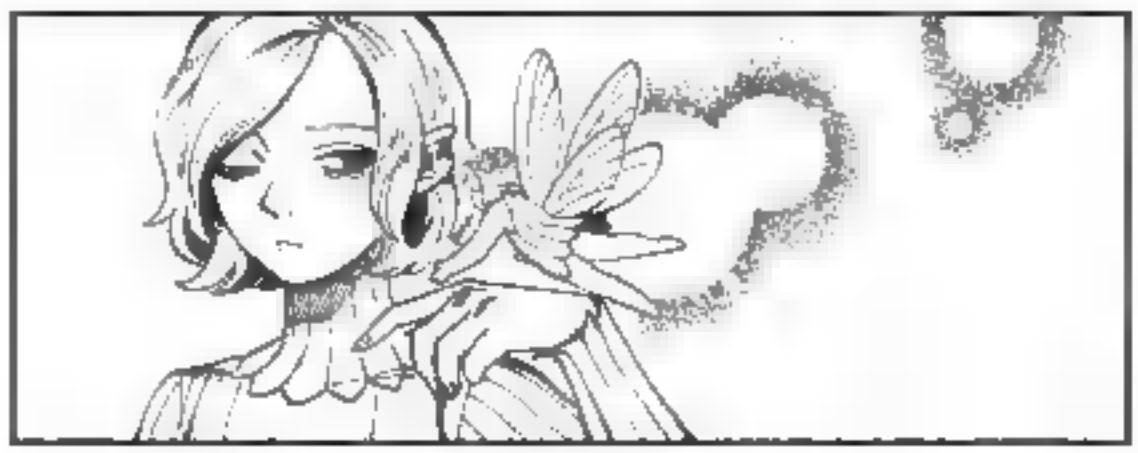


UU...



THERE'S NO TELLING
...WHERE YOU'LL END UP.
ZOOO
(SHUDDER)
TELEPORTATION AND NO SENSE OF DIRECTION. THAT'S AN AWFUL COMBINATION.


BINGO.
TELEPORTATION...
THEY WERE SWITCHED WITH THE STONE IN THE WALLS, AND THE RESULT WAS HUMAN-SHAPED ROCKS?



All is ready.
MM.

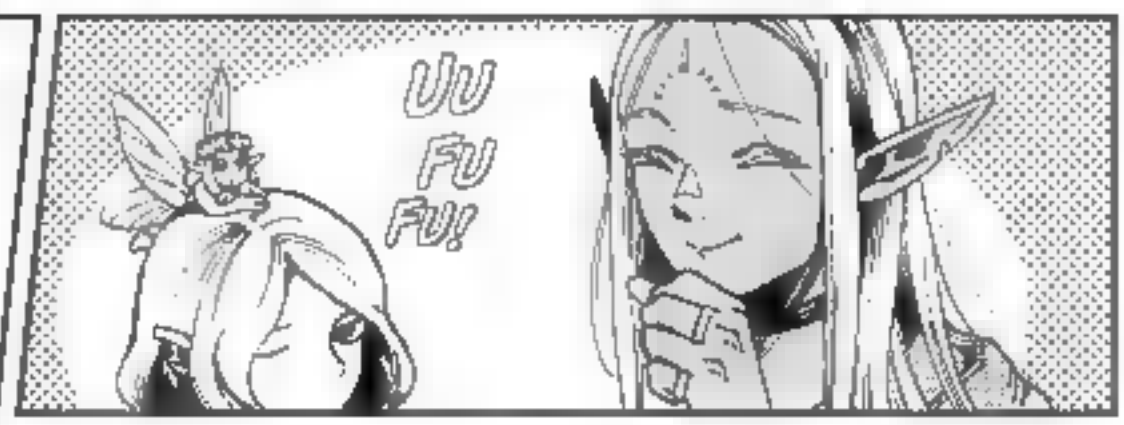
FUWA (FLOAT)
ふわ

WHAT DID YOU DO TO THE PEOPLE OUT THERE?
DOES THIS MEAN YOU WERE NEVER INTERESTED IN MY PROPOSAL?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THEY'RE DONE.
LET'S GO.

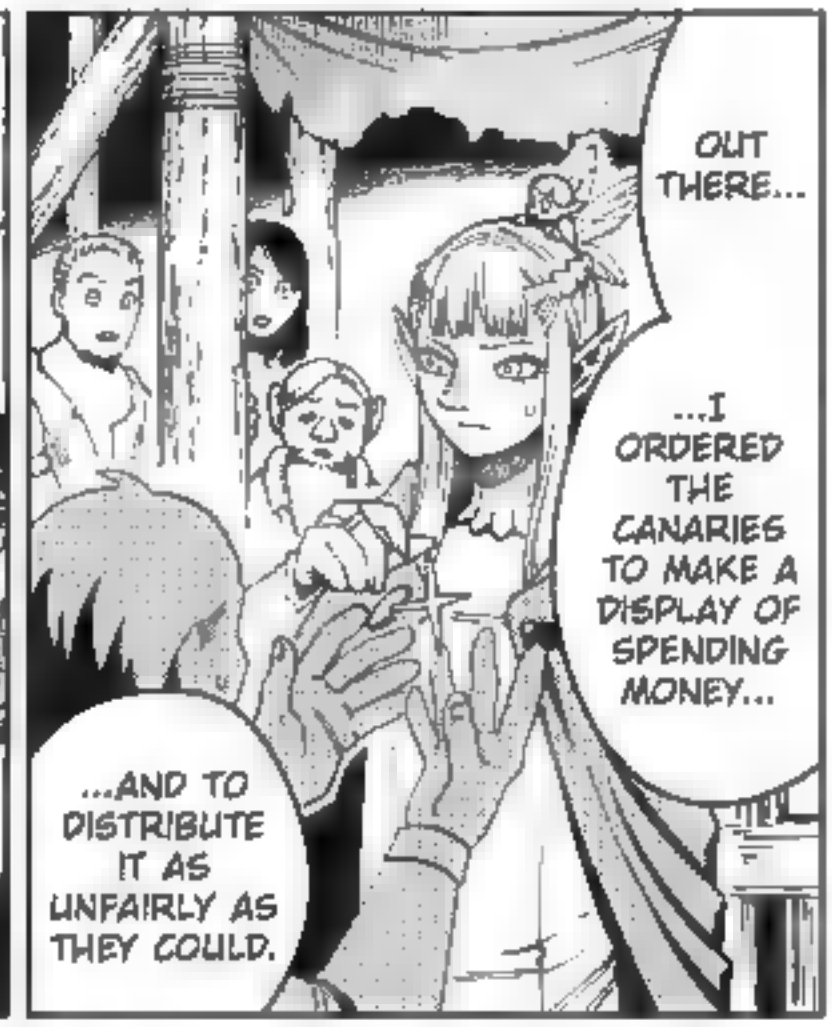
GWEH!
ONCE A PERSON'S TRAPPED BY THEIR DESIRE FOR THE DUN-GEON...
...NO WORDS WILL GET THROUGH.

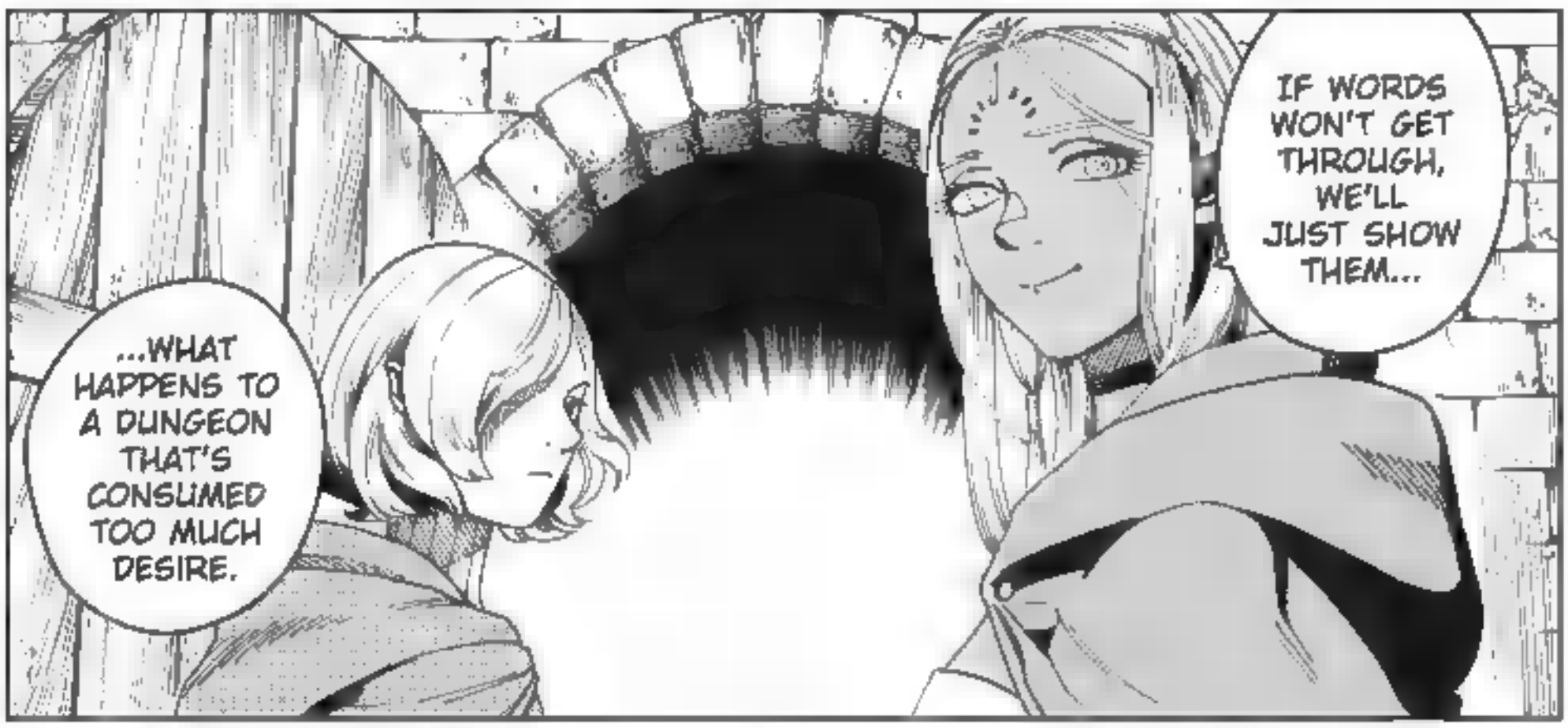

UU FU FU!

...YOUR TRUSTED CONNECTION'S HEART HAD ALREADY BEEN DEVOURED.
IT'S A SHAME...

PEOPLE BLINDED BY THE MONEY WILL RUSH TO THEM...
...AND GREED WILL SWELL UP IN THE DUN-GEON.

BUT IF THEY DO THAT—
YES.


OUT THERE...
...I ORDERED THE CANARIES TO MAKE A DISPLAY OF SPENDING MONEY...
...AND TO DISTRIBUTE IT AS UNFAIRLY AS THEY COULD.


IF WORDS WON'T GET THROUGH, WE'LL JUST SHOW THEM...
...WHAT HAPPENS TO A DUNGEON THAT'S CONSUMED TOO MUCH DESIRE.

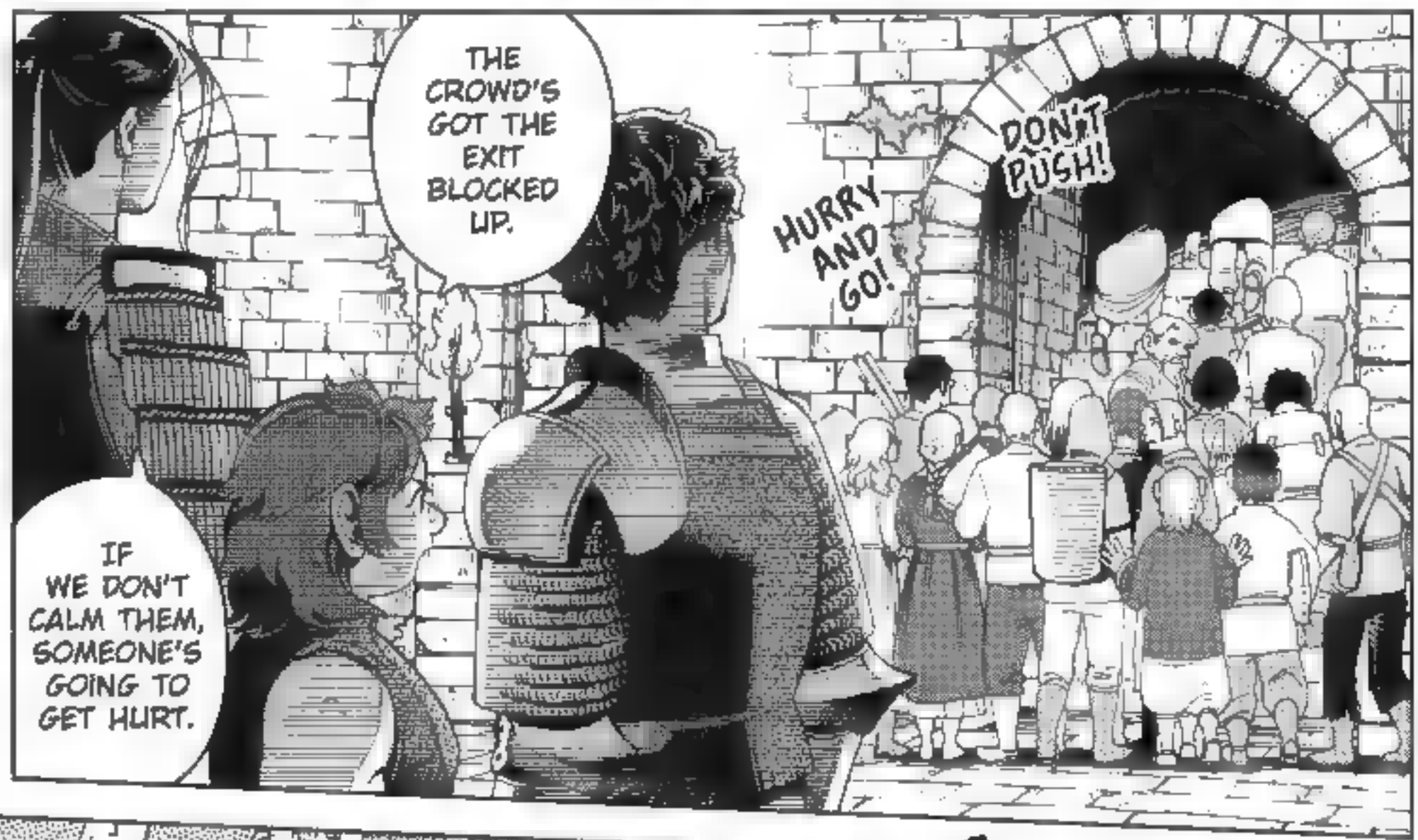
ONCE THEY'VE SEEN THAT, THEY'LL BE THRILLED TO HEAD BACK TO THE SURFACE.

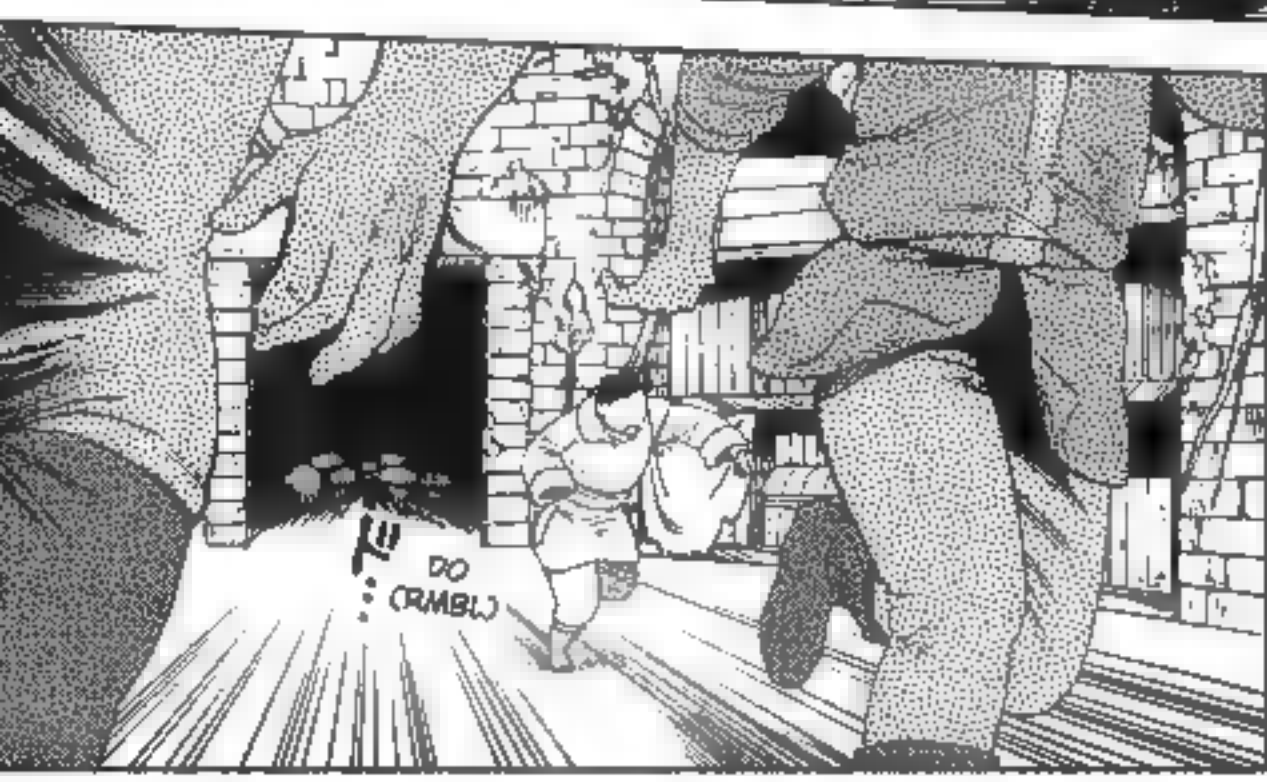
54. On Floor One -2-

WAA (CLAMOR)
YOU OKAY?
MOVE IT!
DON! (WHLID)
DOTA (FWUMP)

I DUNNO.
THE ELVES WERE SHOPPING, AND THEN IT GOT NOISY OUT OF NOWHERE.
I THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE DID SOMETHING.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?


THE CROWD'S GOT THE EXIT BLOCKED UP.
HURRY AND GO!
DON'T PUSH!
IF WE DON'T CALM THEM, SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET HURT.


!!
DO (RMBL)

AAAAAH!

ドド
ドド
ドド
ドド
(RUMBLE)

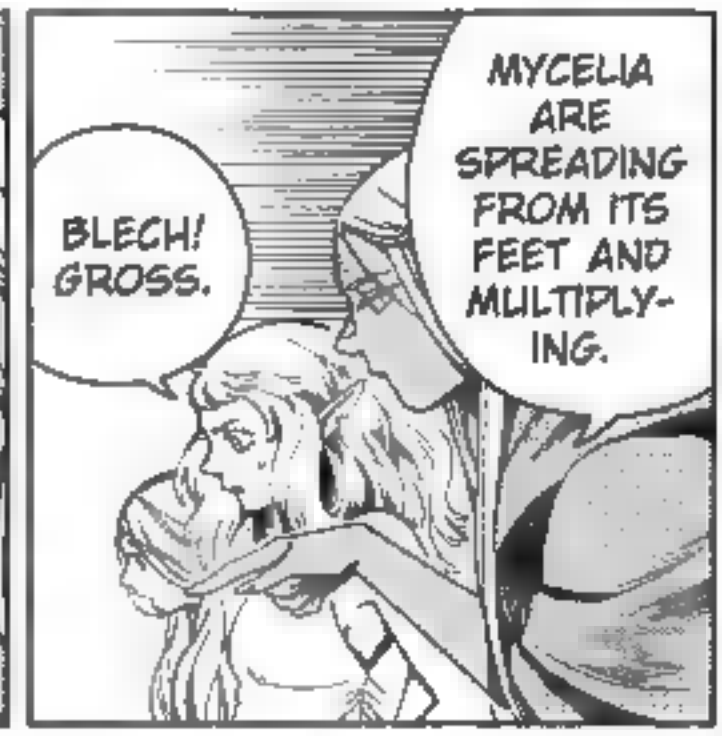
NIKO (SMILE)
THE ONE THING MORE PRECIOUS THAN MONEY IS A PERSON'S LIFE.
BUT NOW EVERYONE WANTS TO GO ABOVE-GROUND.

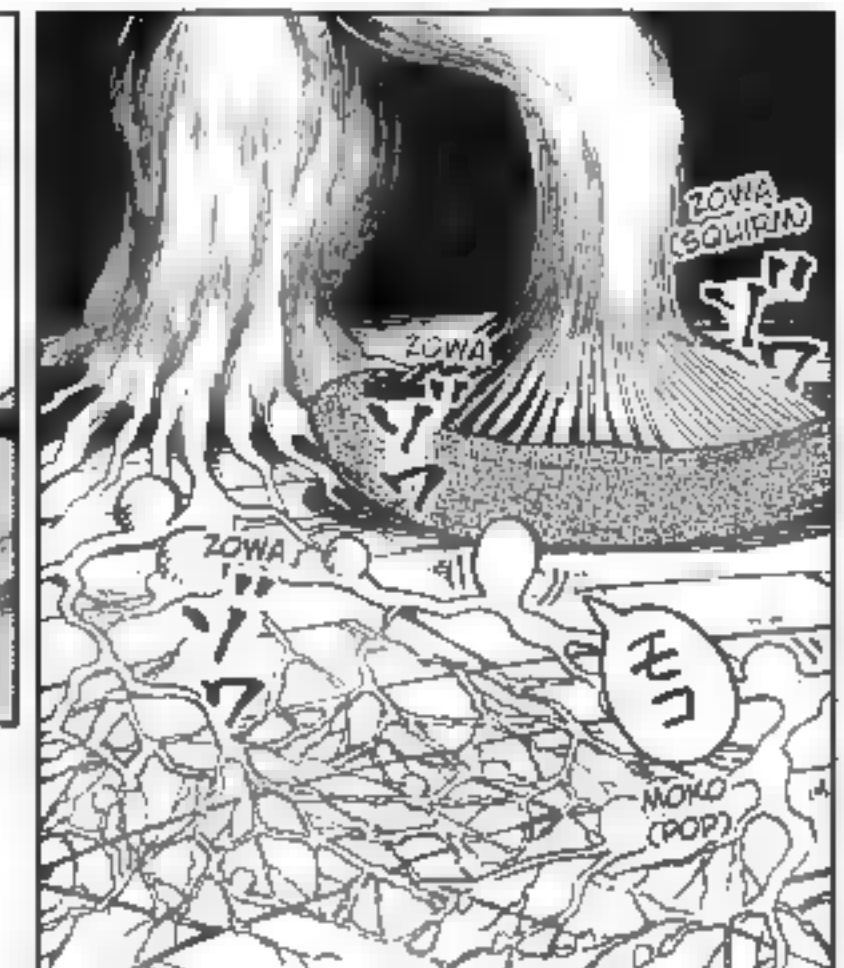
STILL, EVEN IF THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM, THIS SEEMS LIKE AN OVERREACTION. THEY'RE JUST WALKING MUSHROOMS...
WAA!
ZURIRI
ズリ
ズリ
ZURI
ズリ
ZURI (SHUFFLE)

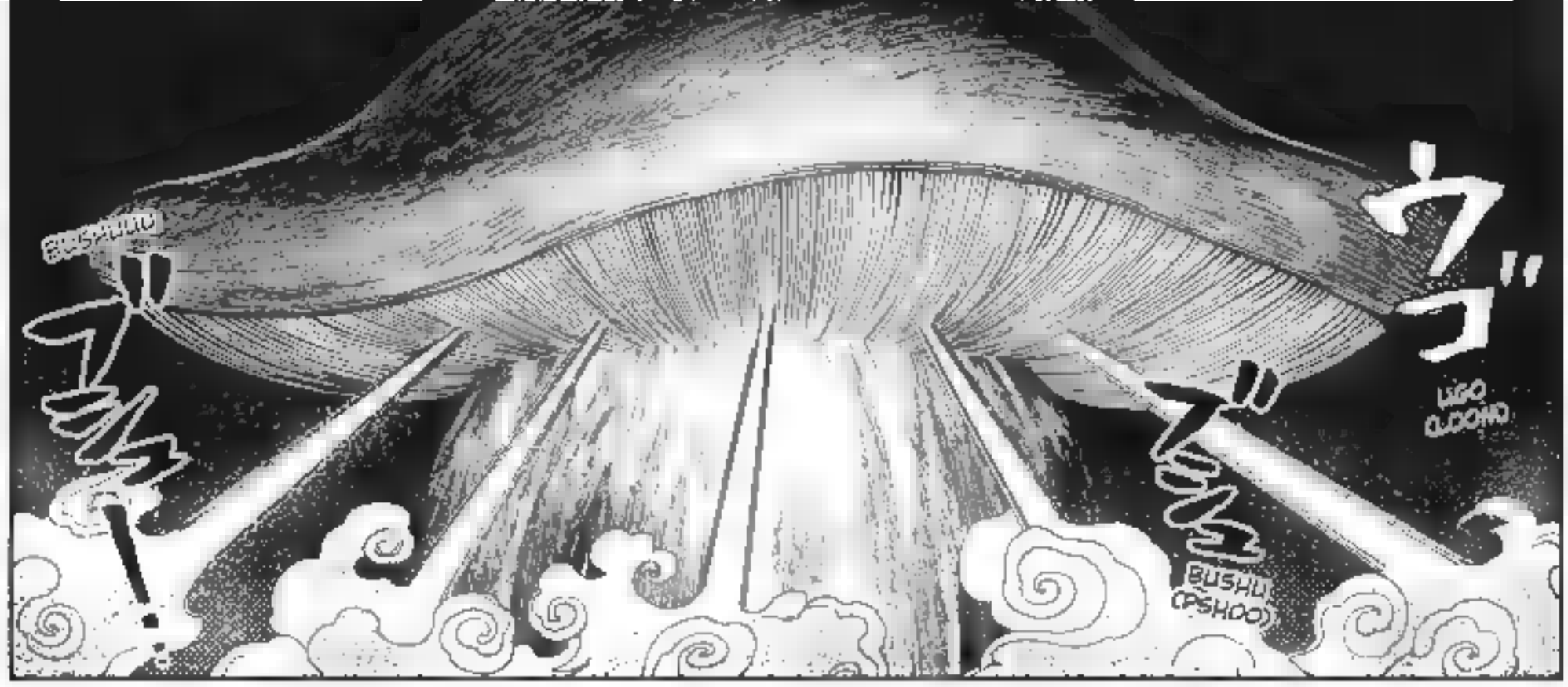
ZUNUNU CLOOMO

ズズズ

IT'S HUGE!!



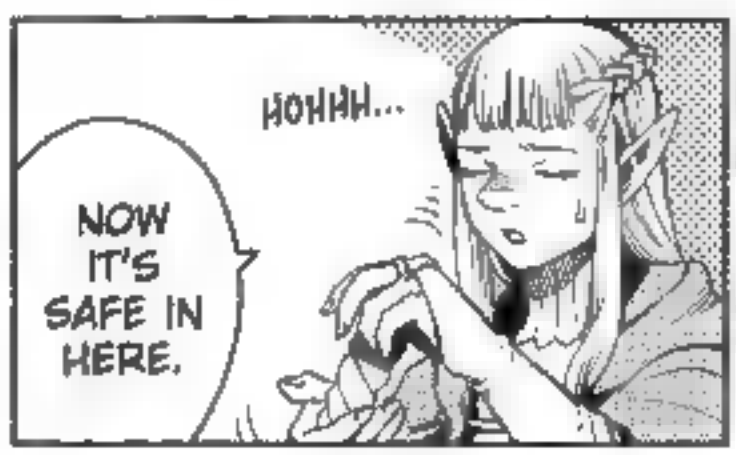


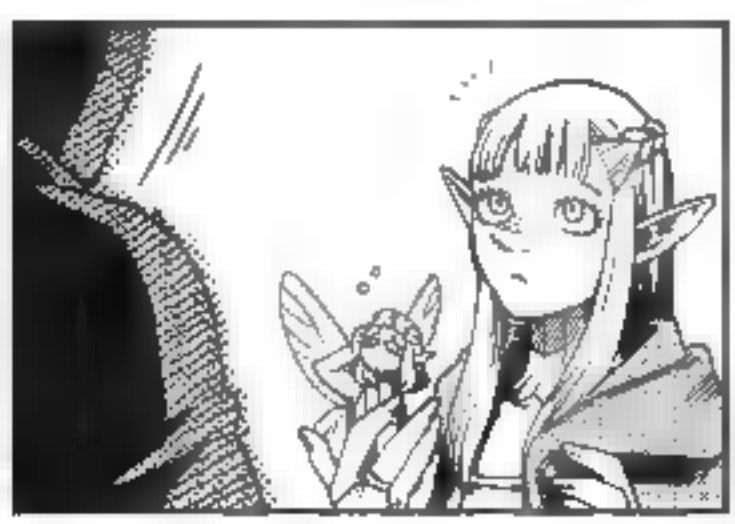

BUSHUUU
UGO GOOMO
BUSHU (PSHOO)

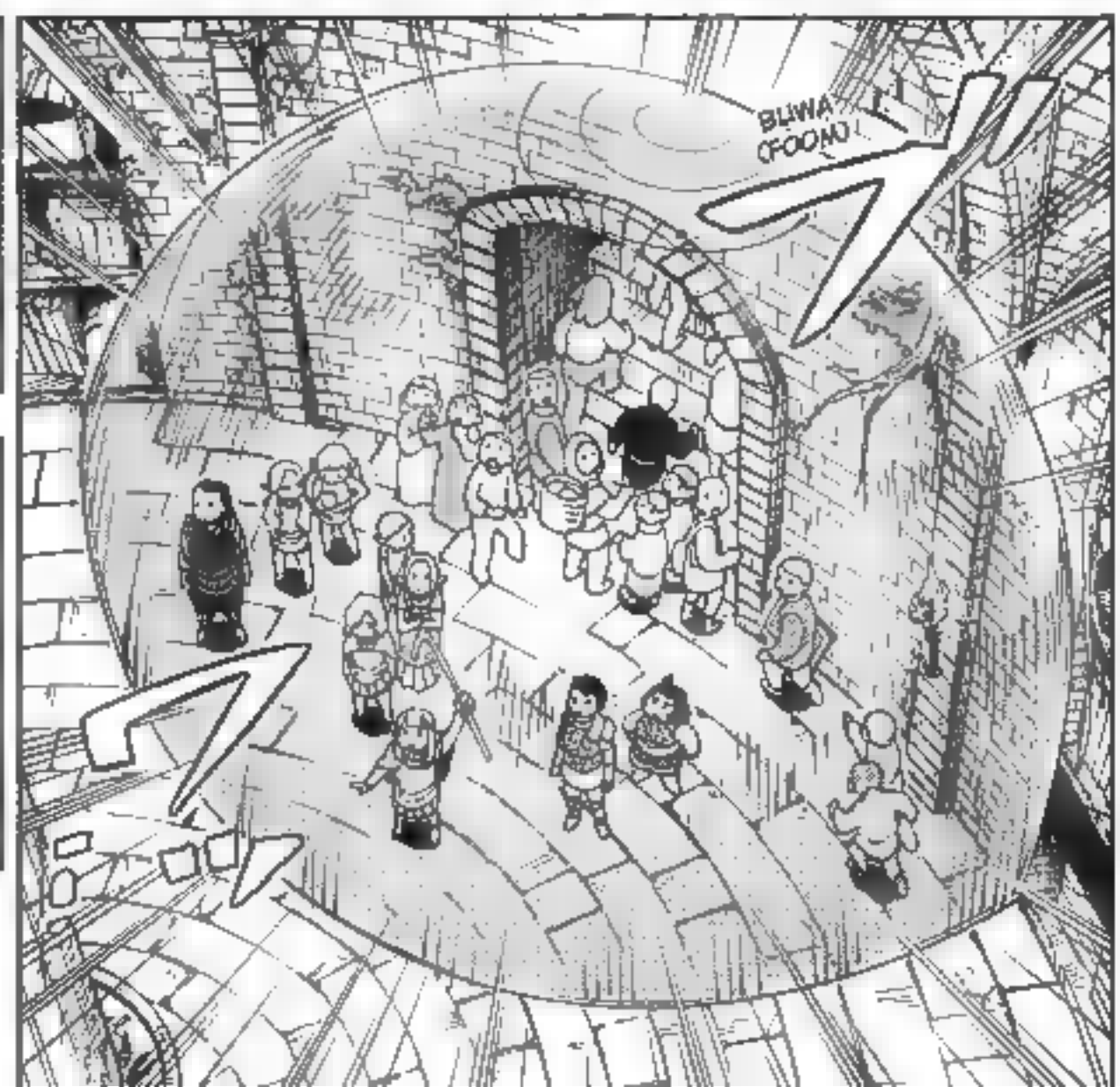
KOFF...
GOTO (CLUNK)

MOAAAAA (FWOOSH)
HGK!

PATTADOL, CAST A BARRIER AROUND THE EXIT.
R-RIGHT.
GYU (SQUEEZE)


HOHHH...
NOW IT'S SAFE IN HERE.




BLIWA (FOOM)

EEP!

BAN (BAM)

TOPU (BLOOP)

IT'S THIS MAN!

AH! HEY!!

THERE'S SOMEONE WHO HASN'T INHALED SPORES OUT THERE!

URK!

TH—

THERE MAY BE, BUT I CAN'T TELL WHO IT—

LET ME INN...!

UHAAAH...

DON (BAM)

DON

THANK YOU. THANK YOU...

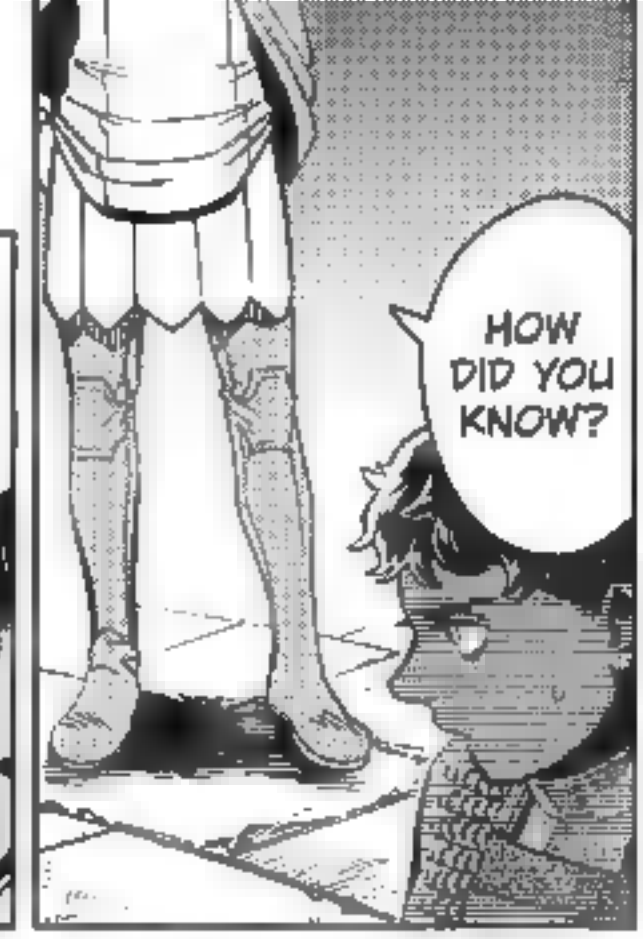
BWAH!

OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!

ZUPO (POP)

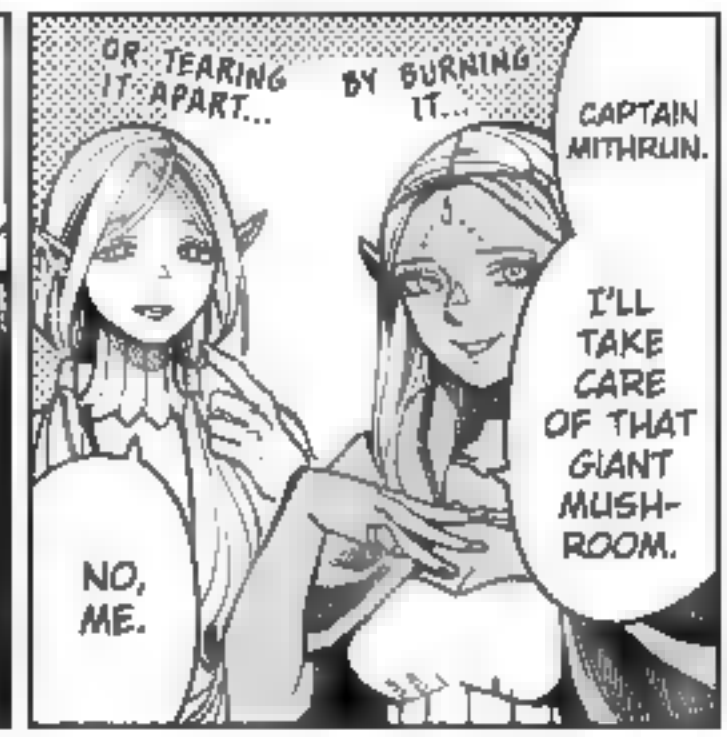
.....

HOW ...?
YOU CAN SEE IT IN THEIR FACES.


HOW DID YOU KNOW?

OTTA. A FOOT-HOLD.
RIGHT.

NO. I'LL DO IT.
WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS?
UU...


OR TEARING IT APART...
BY BURNING IT...
CAPTAIN MITHRUN.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT GIANT MUSH-ROOM.
NO, ME.

BOKO (GRUNK)
ボコ

PITA (TOUCH)
ぴた…

BISHI (ZAP)
ビシ

GU
(TENSE)
DA
(LEAP)
TO
(TUP)
TA
TA
(TMP)

ぐいっ
GUO (FOOM)
DAN
ワル
ン
!!
!!
DO (WHUD)
!!

PA
(SPLASH)
FU
(FFT)
TOPUN
(BLUP)
WATER
!!?
DOBOA
(BLOOSH)

BASHAAAA (KERSPLASH)

IT MAKES THE CLEANUP ROUGH.

DON'T SEND THEM ANYWHERE TOO RANDOM, OKAY?

CAPTAIN, C'MON...

ZUNUNUNUNU (LOOM)

LOOK OUT!!

GUI (YANK)

ゴキ GOKI (KRIKK)

AH!

TWO OF 'EM THIS TIME!?

AGAIN !?

GUA (POOM)
DON
DO
DO
DO
DO (STOMP)
SUPO (POP)
IT WASN'T THE MUSH-ROOMS THINKING!
THAT...
...WAS CLEARLY AIMED AT ME.
HAAH...

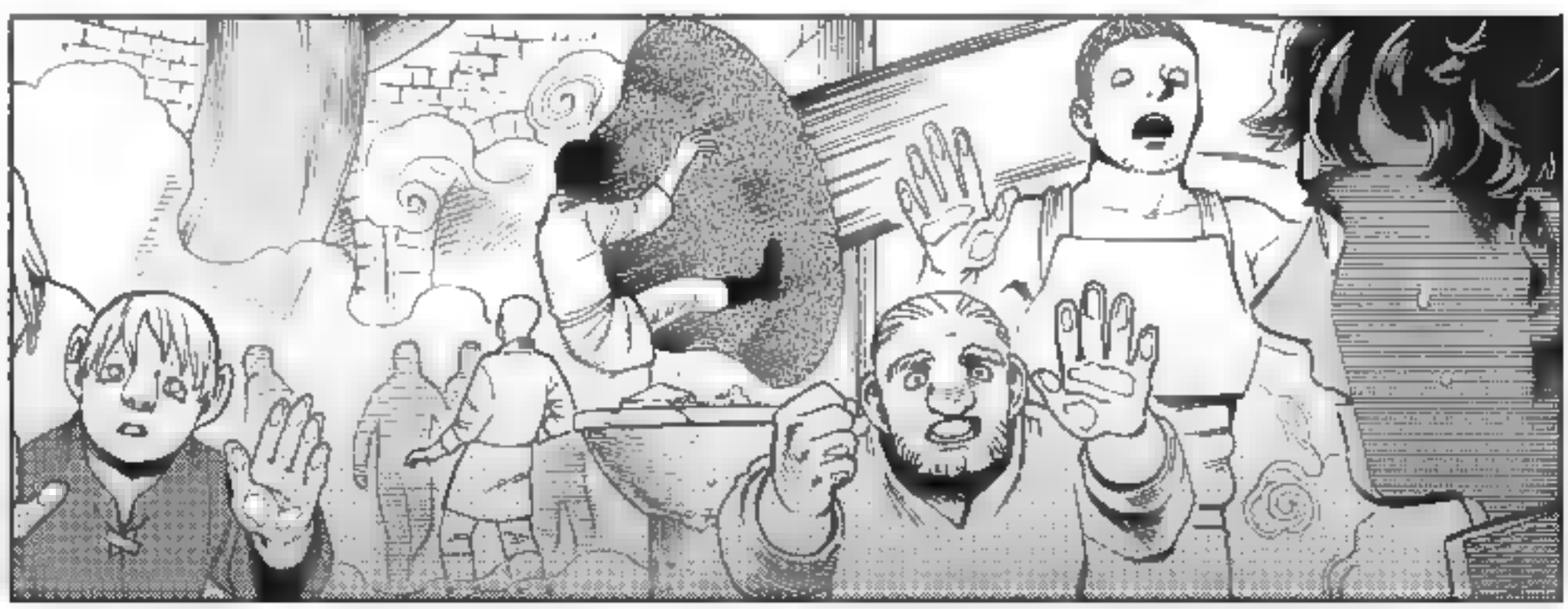
SOMEONE IS HERE RIGHT NOW...

...CONTROLLING THE MUSHROOMS AND WATCHING ALL OF THIS!

YOU.
CAN YOU SEE ANYONE ABNORMAL IN THAT CROWD?

GASHI (GRAB)
がし

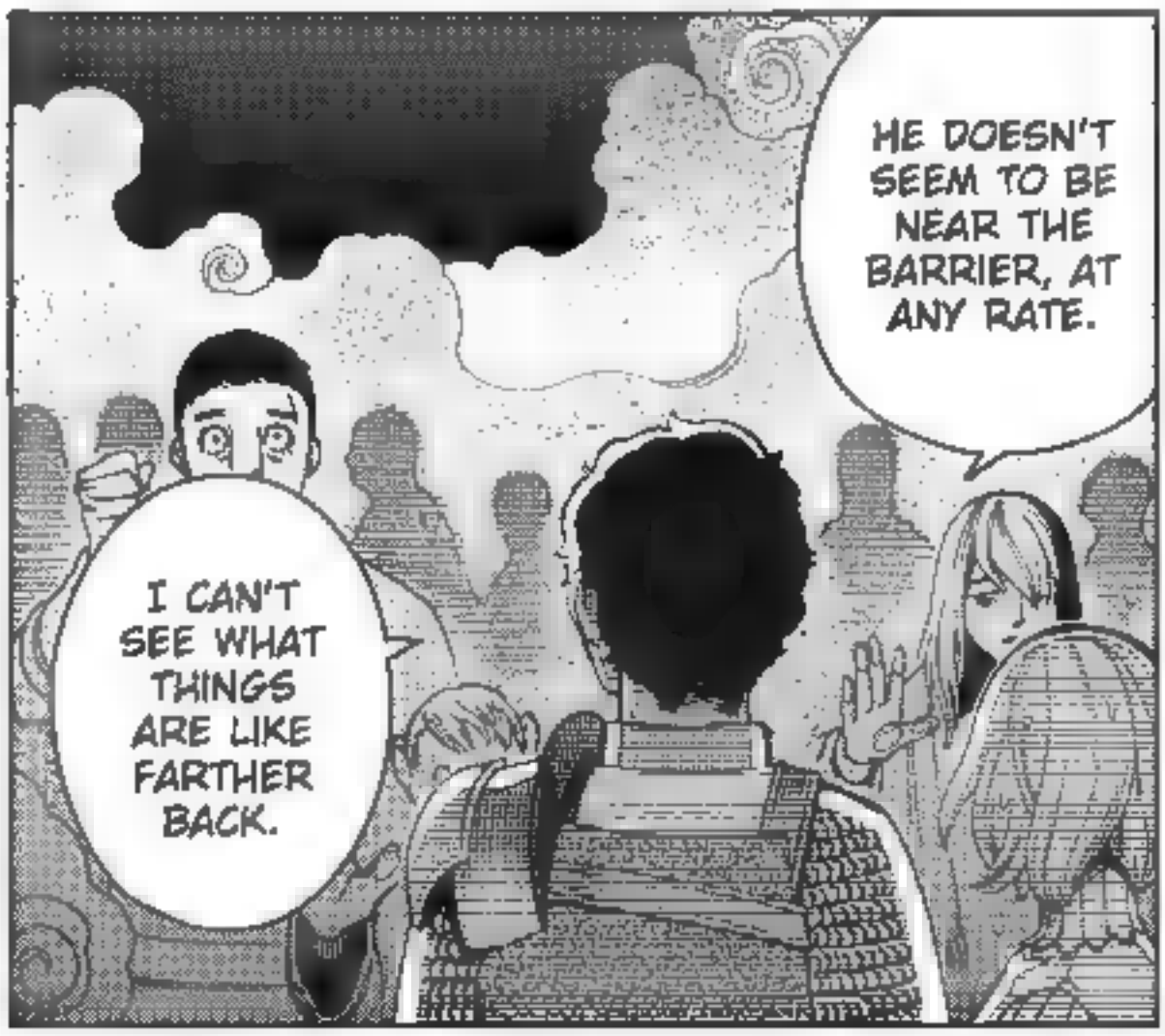
UM...
くるり
GURURI (TWIST)



IN THE THIN MANA NEAR THE SURFACE, HE WON'T HAVE MUCH POWER.
I'D LIKE TO MAKE OUR MOVE HERE.

THERE'S A GOOD POSSIBILITY, CONSIDER-ING.

HE'S HERE NOW?
THE DUNGEON LORD IS IN THE CROWD?


HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE NEAR THE BARRIER, AT ANY RATE.
I CAN'T SEE WHAT THINGS ARE LIKE FARTHER BACK.

AAH
UWAAH

LOOK FROM THERE AND DECIDE.
...I'LL TELEPORT BOTH OF US UP ONTO THAT PILLAR.

ALL RIGHT.
TON (PAT)
IN THAT CASE...

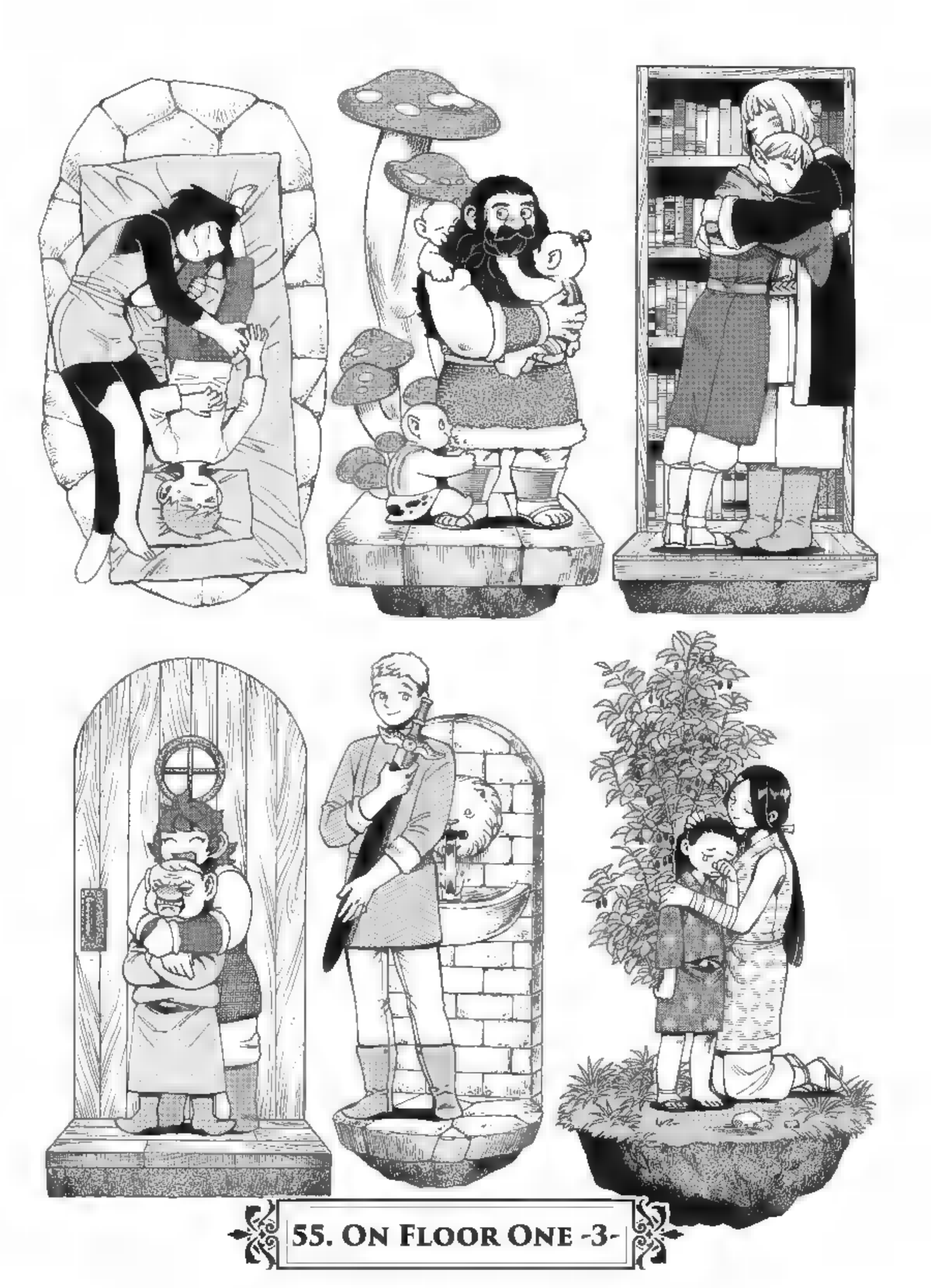
GYU (SQUEEZE)
HERE WE GO.
NO, UM—

LET'S JUST NOT, OKAY?

NOOOOO!
I MESSED UP.
ZUMOMO (CROWD)
ZUMO

FU (FFT)
GHK!
JUST LOOK AT THE PEOPLE.
AGH!
UU...

...THERE'S JUST ONE PERSON...
IN ALL THIS CONFUSION...
THAT ONE...
...!?
...WHO ISN'T TERRIFIED...
...OR DAZED FROM INHALING SPORES.
BA (POINT)
THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN!
THAT'S HIM.



55. On Floor One -3-

THAT'S THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN...

HE LOOKS...

...MUCH TOO NORMAL.

YOU KNOW, I COULD BE WRONG.

.....

ゴチン GOCHIN (CLONK)

DON (WHUD)

WHOA!

ドン

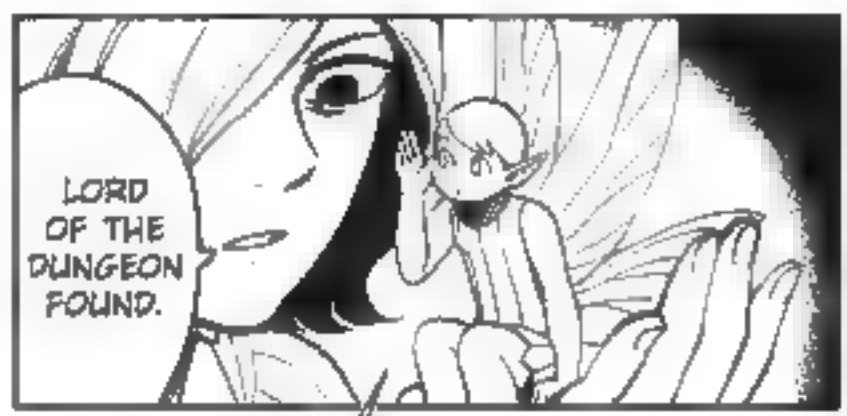
BESIDES, HE'S USING THE DUNGEON'S POWER TO PROLONG HIS LIFE.

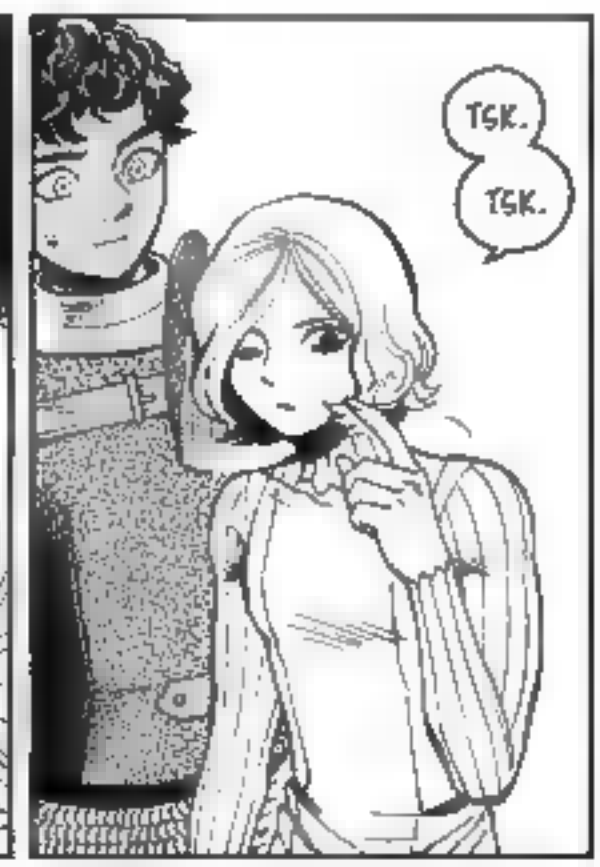
THAT MEANS, IF WE THROW HIM UP TOP, WE'LL KNOW.

ALL THE DUNGEON'S LORD CAN DO...

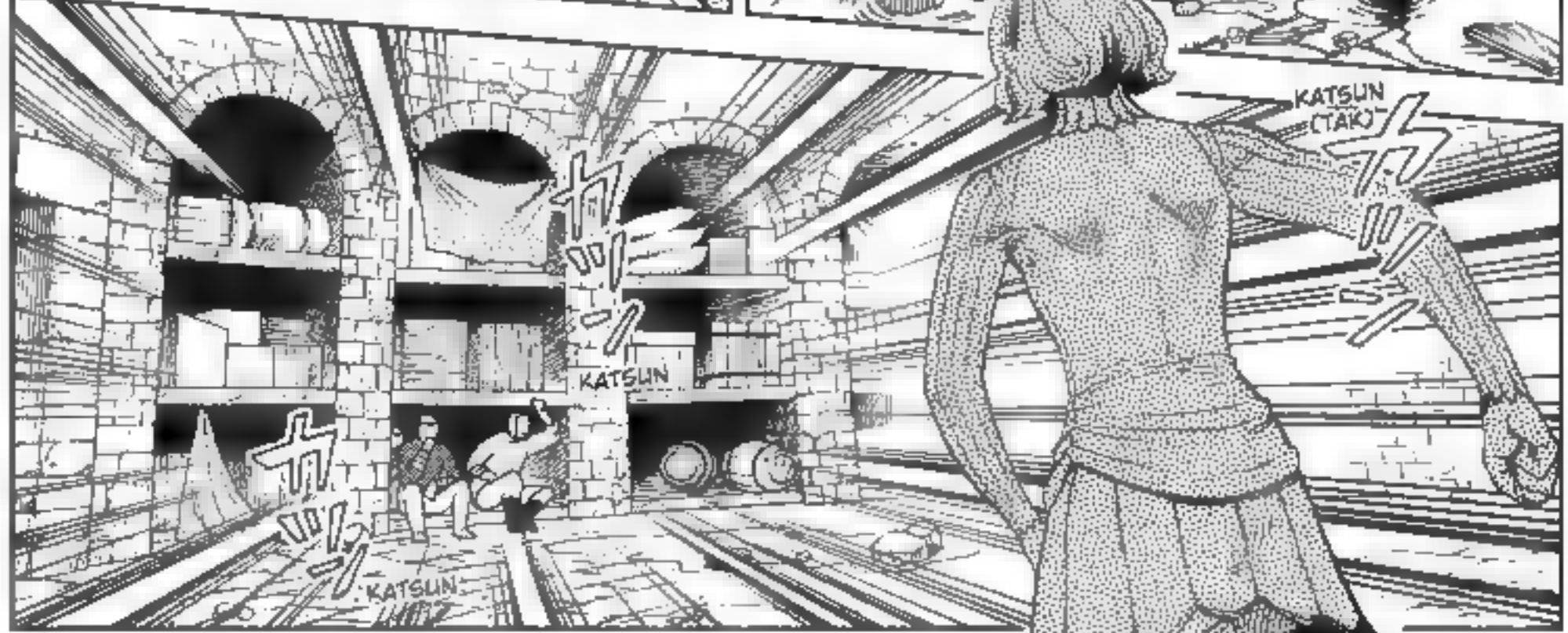
...IS CONTROL ITS LAYOUT AND MONSTERS.

IN THE THIN MAGIC NEAR THE SURFACE, EVEN THAT WON'T GO WELL.





SFX: GOKI (KRIKO GOKI

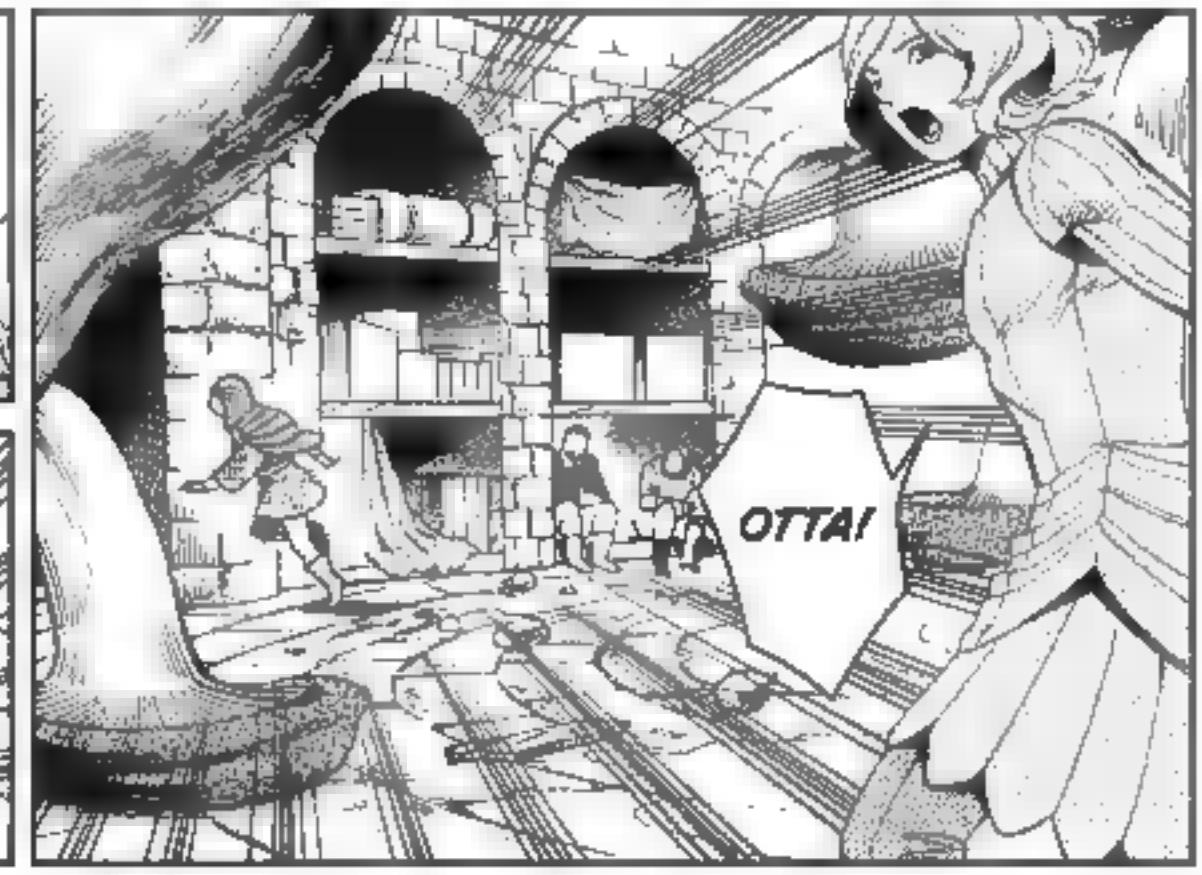


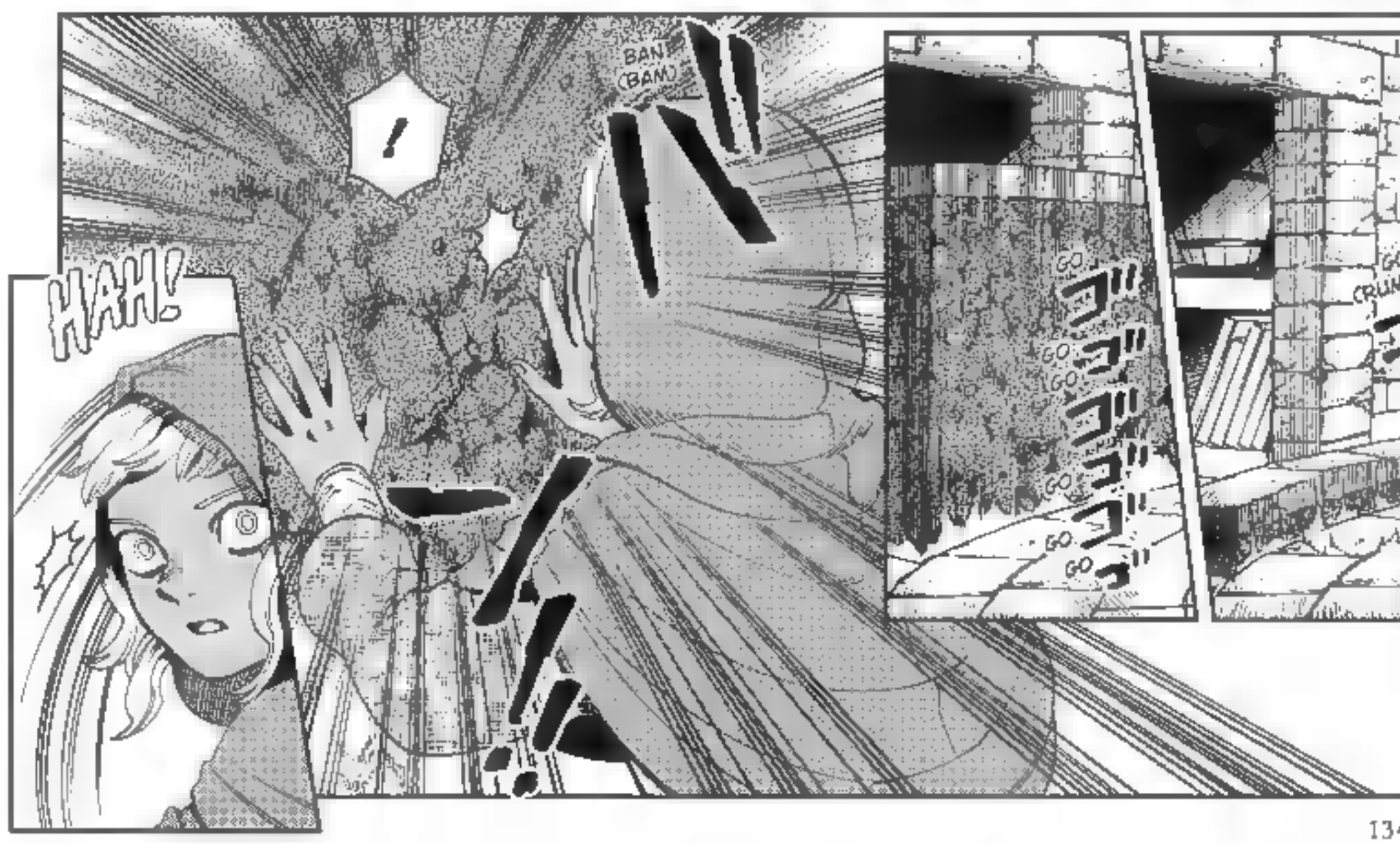
BA (CLUNGE)
WHOA!
DON (WHLID)

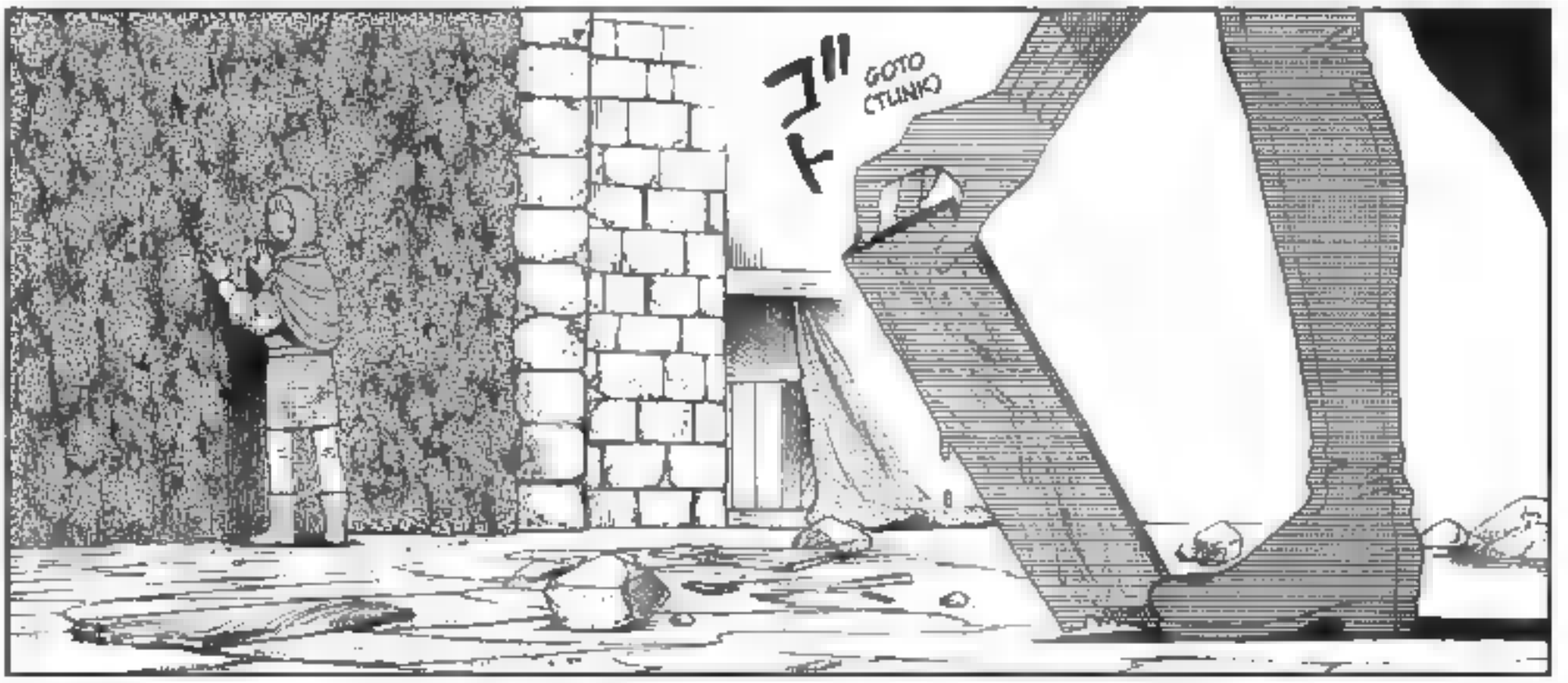
!

ON IT!

BASHI (SMACK)
BISHI (KRAK)

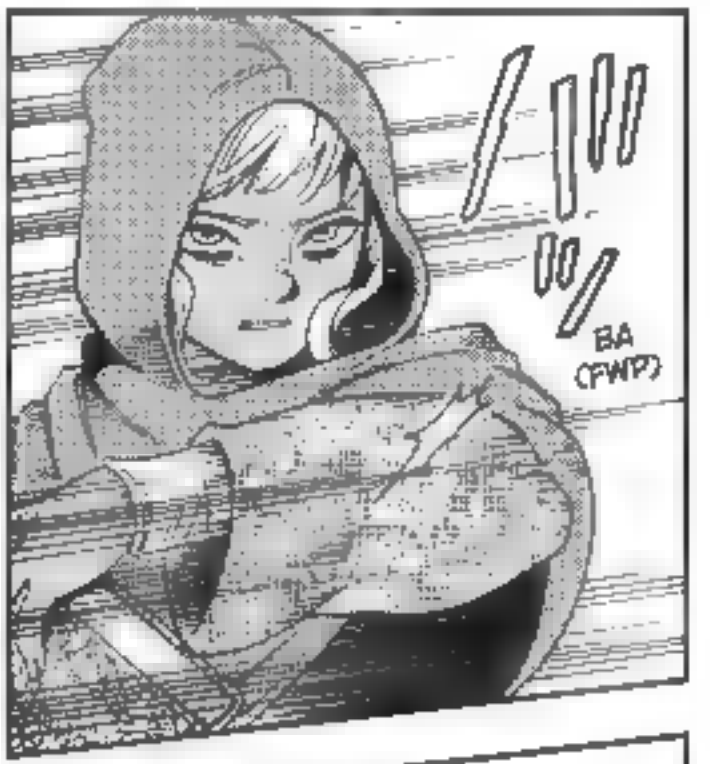

OTTA!


HAH!
!
BAN (BAM)
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
CRUMBLED


GOTO
(THUNK)

BUSHU
(SPLURT)

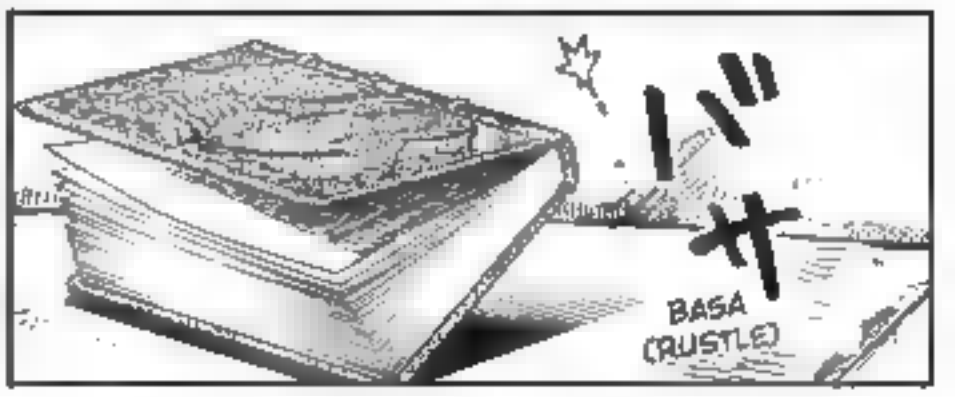
FU
(FFT)

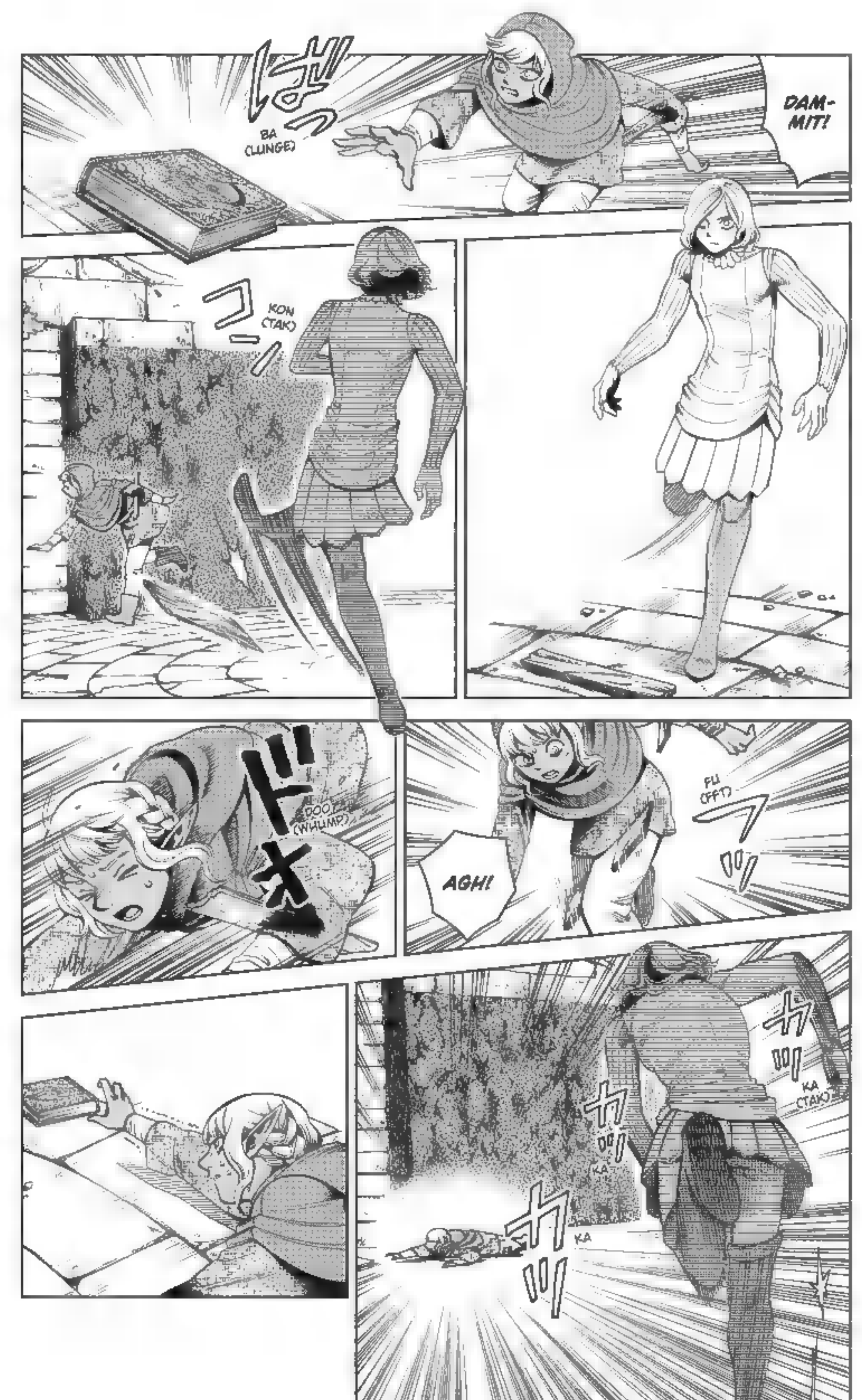

BA
(FWP)

YOU MADE MY FLESH AND THE WOOD SWITCH PLACES?
TELE-PORTA-TION?

BOTO
(PLOP)

YAUGH!


BASA
(RUSTLE)


BA
(LUNGE)
DAM-
MIT!
KON
(TAK)
DOO
(WHUMP)
AGHI
FU
(FFT)
KA
KA
KA
KA
(TAK)

グイ
GUI (YANK)

ボン
BON (BUNT)

I LOOKED INTO YOUR RECORDS.
SISSEL, THE LUNATIC MAGI-CIAN.

DON'T STRUG-GLE.
I'LL SEND YOU TO THE SURFACE.

UGK...
BACHI (SNAP)
NGH!
JIJI (SIZZ)

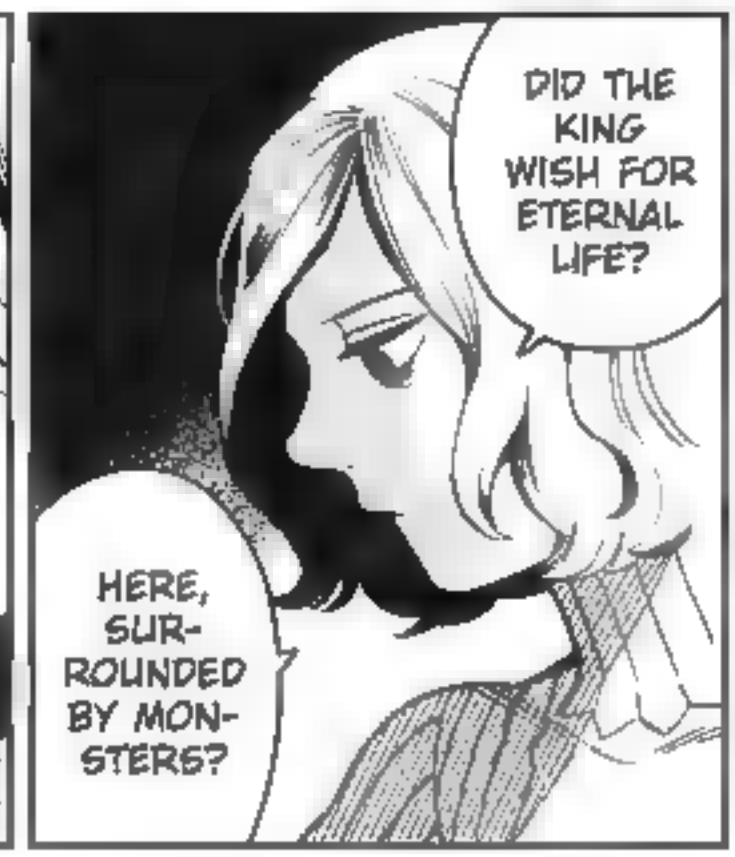
SET IT FREE.
DELGAL, THE KING YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH, FLED ABOVEGROUND AND TURNED TO DUST.
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO PROTECT THE CASTLE NOW.
GU (GRIP)
LISTEN.
GYO (SHOCK)
HUH!?

THAT'S JUST WHAT YOU THOUGHT.

...AND THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE.
HE SAID HE WANTED ME...
...TO PROTECT HIM...

THAT CAN'T BE.
DELGAL ASKED ME FOR THIS.

IN HIS LAST MOMENTS, I HEAR HE WISHED FOR YOUR DEATH.

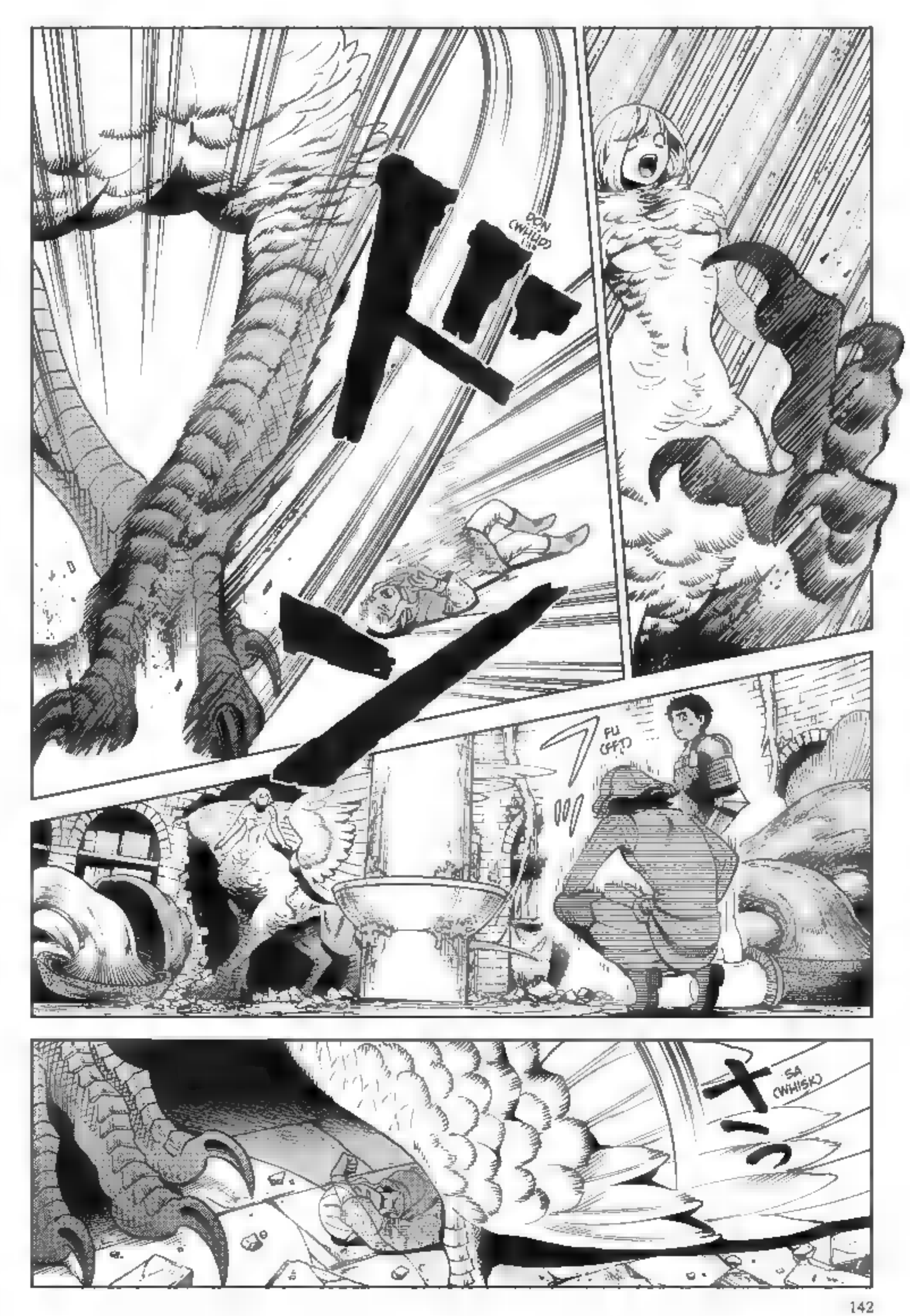

DID THE KING WISH FOR ETERNAL LIFE?
HERE, SUR-ROUNDED BY MON-STERS?

YOU CALL THAT PERSUA-SION!?
LET ME DO IT...
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO SAY IT...

LIES.
LIES.
LIES!
...YOU'RE LYING.
JI (PZZT)
DISHI (CRACK)
LIIIIES!
BISHI
BISHI
BAGI (KRAKK)
BISHI
BAGI
BAGI
BISHI (KRIK)
BISHI
BISHI

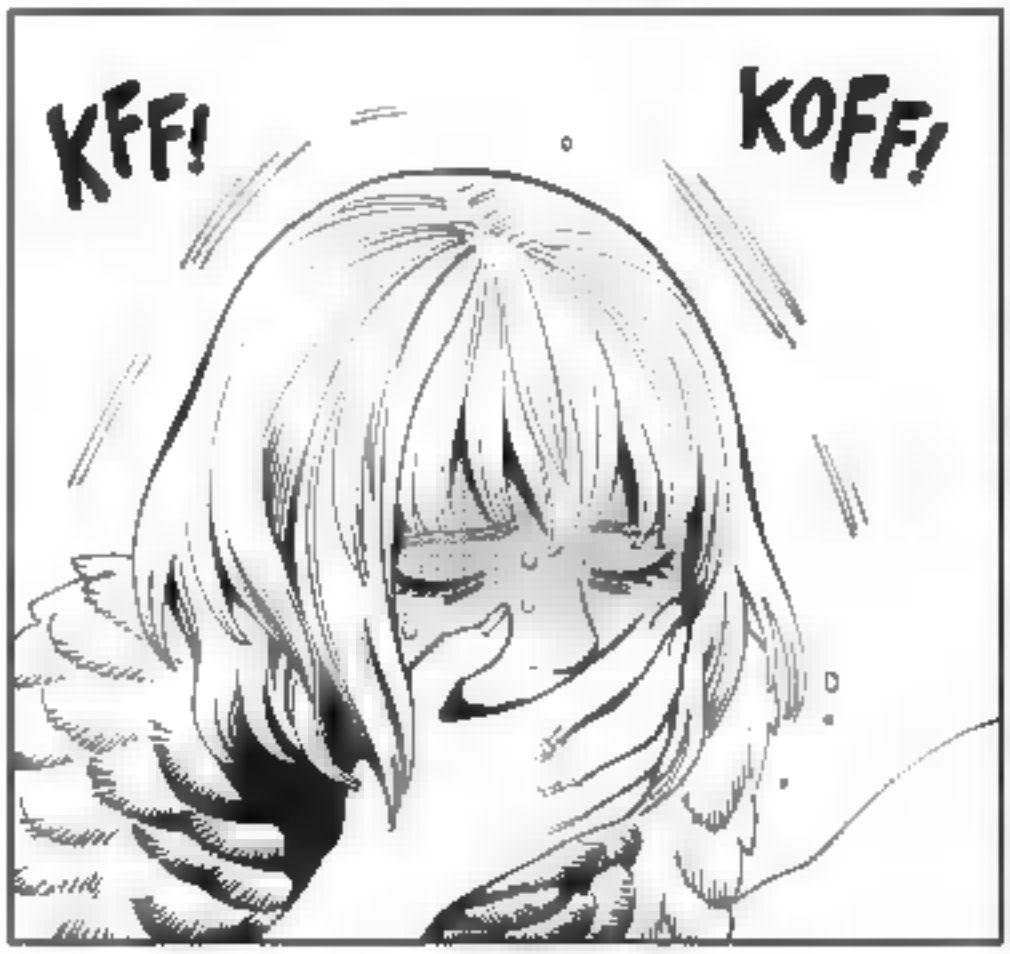
DOGAA (GRUNCH)

KUHH! KUHH!


DON (WHUP)
FU (FFT)
SA (WHISK)

HEY, ISN'T THAT FALI—?
MMF!

OH MY. HE CALLED A CHIMERA.
WHAT A FOOL! TO A PLACE WITH MAGIC THIS THIN!?


KFF!
KOFF!

WHEEZE...
WHEEZE...

SLITON (PLLIMP)

SU
(SHF)
スッ

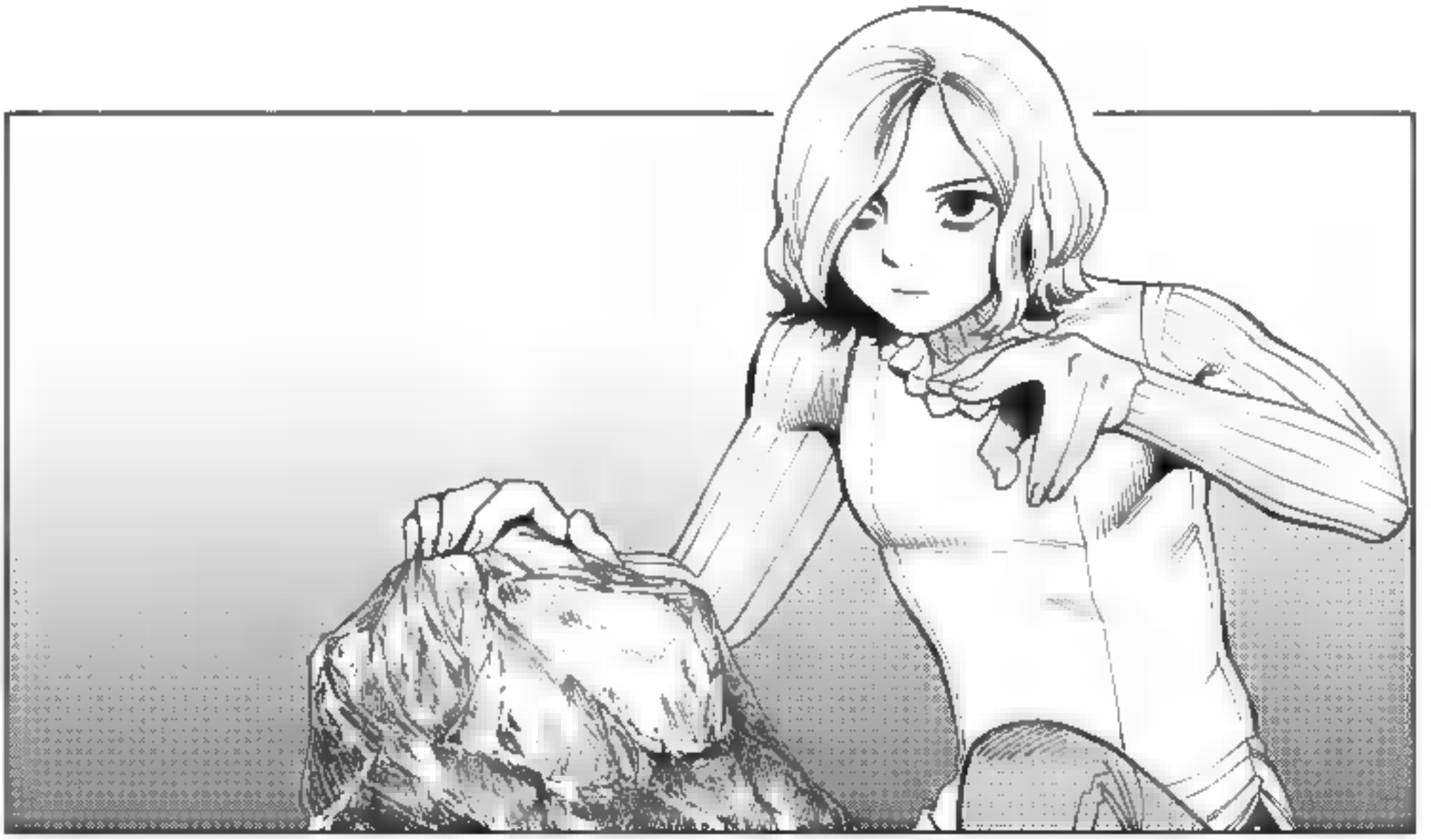
.....
コツ
KOTSU
(TAK)
コツ
KOTSU

FU
フッ

ゴ!!
GO
(WHLINK)

FU
OFFTO

FOR SOMEONE WITH ONE EYE, A HIT THAT CLOSE IS AMAZING.
SHOW SOME RESPECT!
ONE CLEAN HIT THERE WOULD DO IT, BUT I DUNNO...
WENT FOR THE BRAIN, HM?
BWA HA HA!
WHAT A LOUSY SHOT!



HAFF...
HAFF...

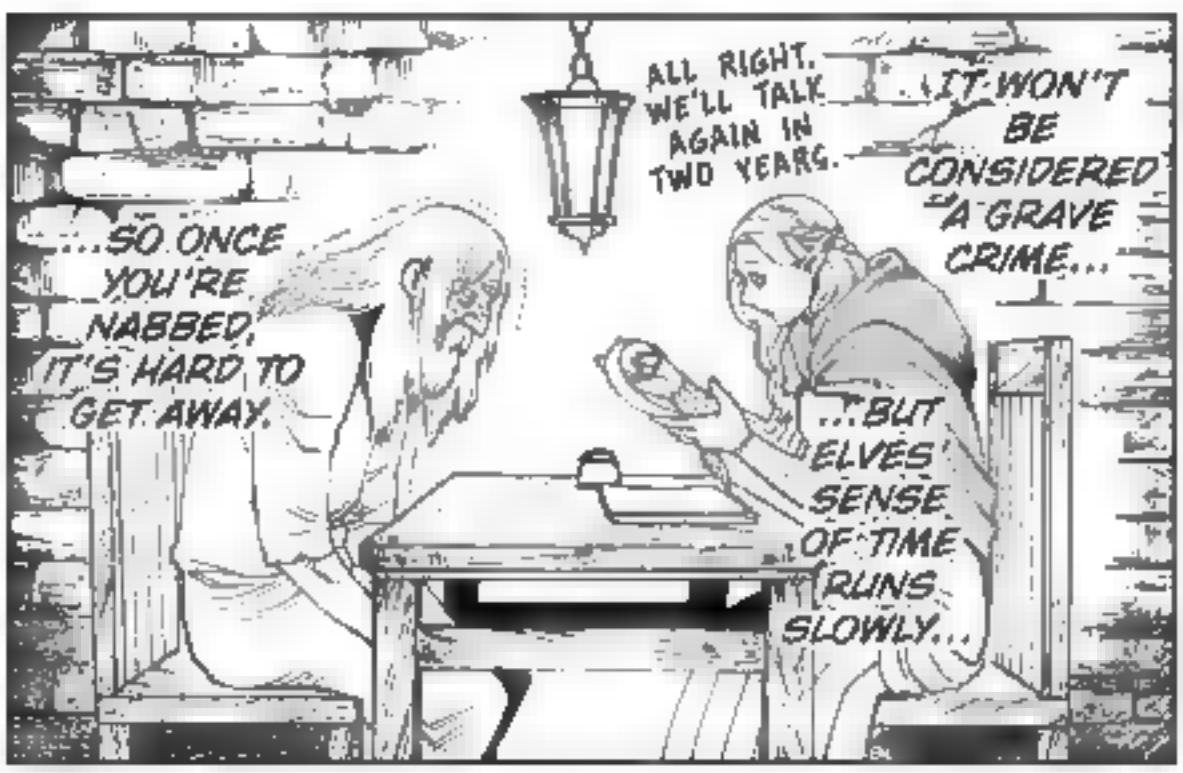
SO SCATTERING MONEY AND FANNING PASSIONS WAS ALL A STRATEGY TO LURE HIM TO THE FIRST FLOOR SO THEY COULD FIGHT HERE.
HEH.
I SEE.
PRETTY AMAZING. THAT'S JUST LIKE THEM.

THE MAGIC'S SO THIN SHE CAN'T MOVE.
IS IT LIKE NOT HAVING ENOUGH OXYGEN?

YOU PEOPLE SEEM TO KNOW THAT CHIMERA.
...THAT'S RIGHT.

WE'LL WANT THE DETAILS LATER, SO DON'T GO ANY-WHERE.

ONCE WE'RE FINISHED HERE, LET'S GET SOME FOOD IN TOWN.
WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE CAPTAIN MITHRUN EATS SOON.
WE'RE NOT DONE YET. DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.


...SO ONCE YOU'RE NABBED, IT'S HARD TO GET AWAY.
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL TALK AGAIN IN TWO YEARS.
IT WON'T BE CONSIDERED A GRAVE CRIME...
...BUT ELVES' SENSE OF TIME RUNS SLOWLY...

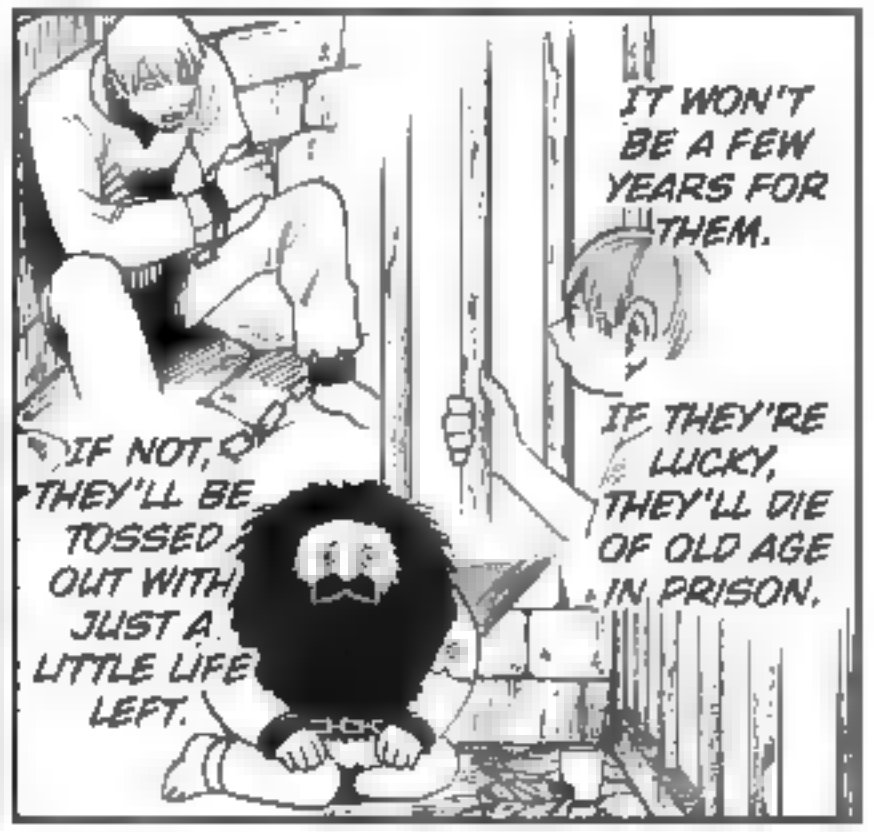
NO, UH...
OH, RIGHT. THAT'S ANOTHER PROBLEM.
THEY'LL TAKE US TO THE WEST.

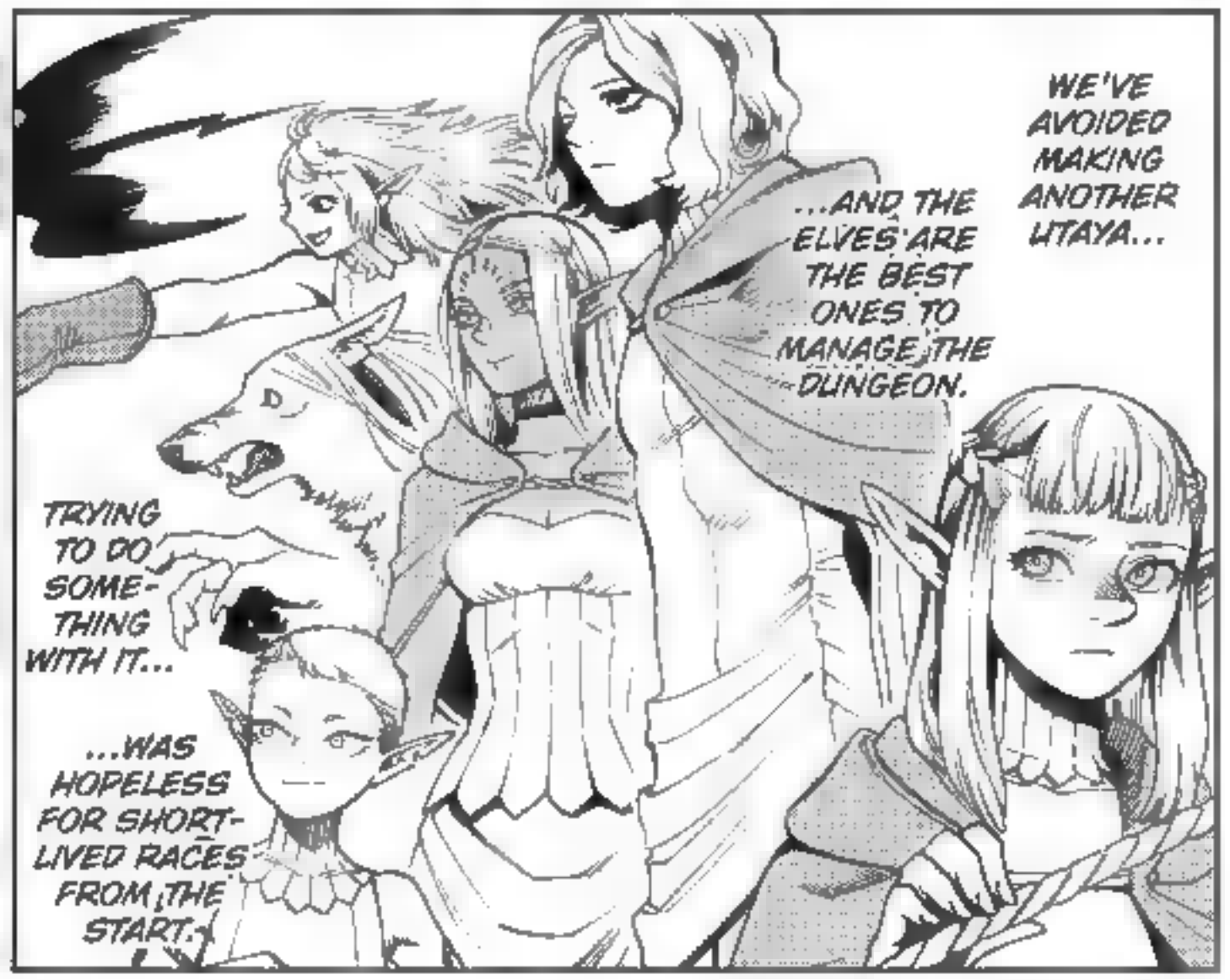
AND RIN...
ALL HER MEMORIES OF THE ELVES ARE NASTY ONES, SO I'D FEEL BAD FOR HER.
I WANT TO HELP HER GET AWAY SOME-HOW.

SHE MAY WANT ME TO LIVE THERE PERMANENTLY.
THINGS WILL GET TIRESOME AFTER THAT, THOUGH.

IF SHE PUTS IN A WORD FOR ME, THEY'LL RELEASE ME PROMPTLY.
I HAVE A FOSTER MOTHER.
SHE TAKES IN CHILDREN FROM OTHER RACES AS A HOBBY.

AS FOR LAIOS'S GROUP ...





...IS THIS REALLY ALL RIGHT!?

HFF...

HFF...

MOVE.

IF YOU DIE THERE, YOU'LL CRUSH YOUR MASTER.

PLEASE WAIT!!

...

GU (GRIP)

.....

FU (FFT)
UU!
GA (GRAB)
FU
DOSU (THUNK)
THAT WAS CLOSE !!!

WHY DID THAT HAPPEN TO UTAYA ABOVEGROUND WHERE MAGIC WAS THIN?
WHY IS A NORMAL PERSON THE DUNGEON'S LORD!?
TELL ME.
WHY IS BLACK MAGIC KEPT SECRET?

NO.
I REALLY CAN'T ACCEPT THIS!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LET GO.

YOU EXPLAIN NOTHING AND TAKE EVERYTHING!!
YOU PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LIKE THAT!

DON'T TALK AS IF YOU'RE SOOTHING A CHILD!
CALM DOWN.
WE ONLY WANT TO SHIELD YOUNG RACES FROM DANGER.

WE'LL CONQUER THIS DUNGEON!

IT HAS TO BE US!

HURRY AND GO!

KOKURI (NOD)

コクリ

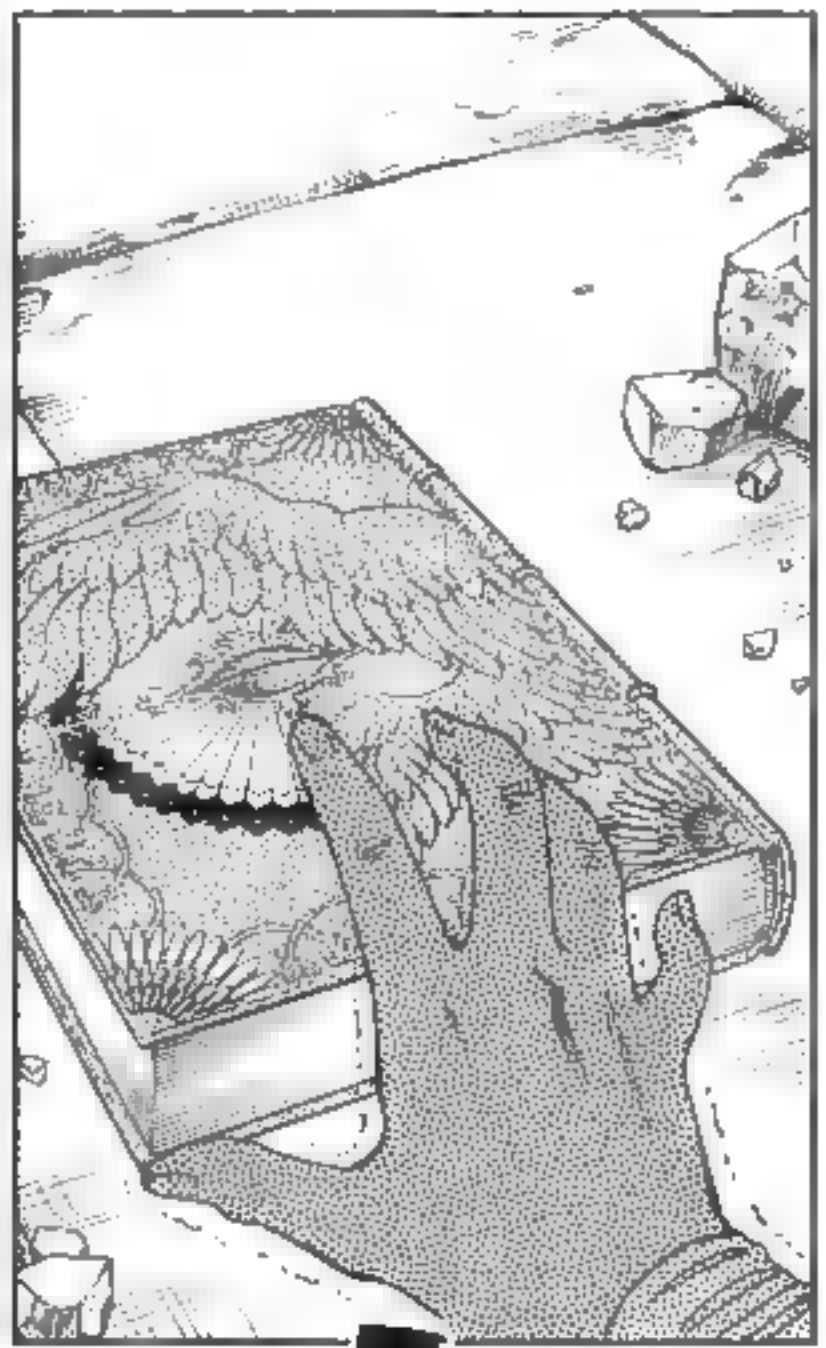
CHIRIN (TING)

チリン…

モゾ

MOZO (SQUIRM)

PACHIRI
(BLINK)



BA
(VWP)
CRUD.
OH.

ZUN
(RUMBLE)

BOKO
(CRUNCH)
ボコ

BISHI
ビシ
BISHI
(CRIK)
ビシ

BISHI
ビシ

ぎゅう
GYUU
(SQUEEZE)

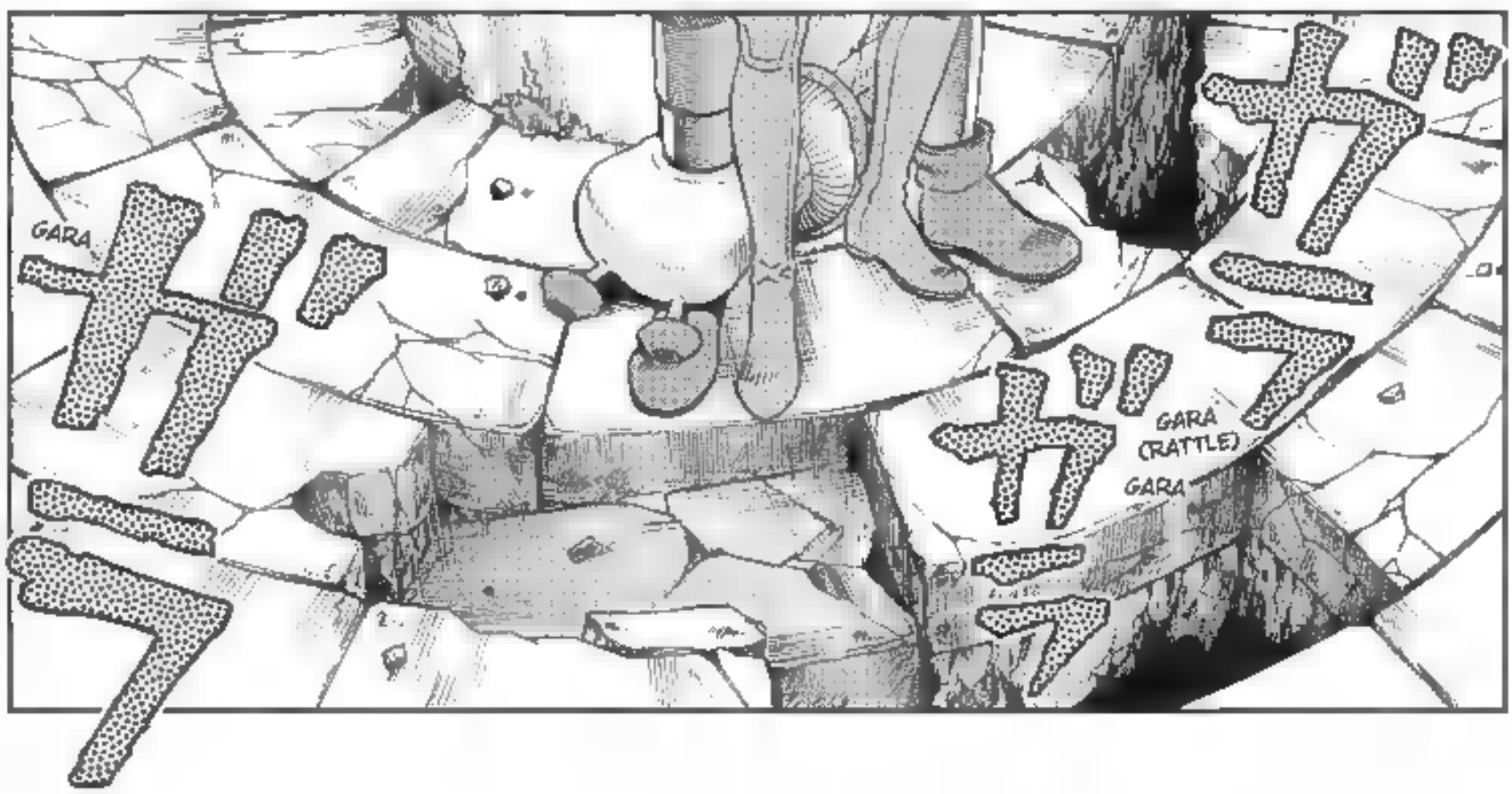
YORO
(STAGGER)
ヨロ

BETTER THAN DYING BURIED IN A WALL.
LET GO.
YOU'LL FALL AND DIE.

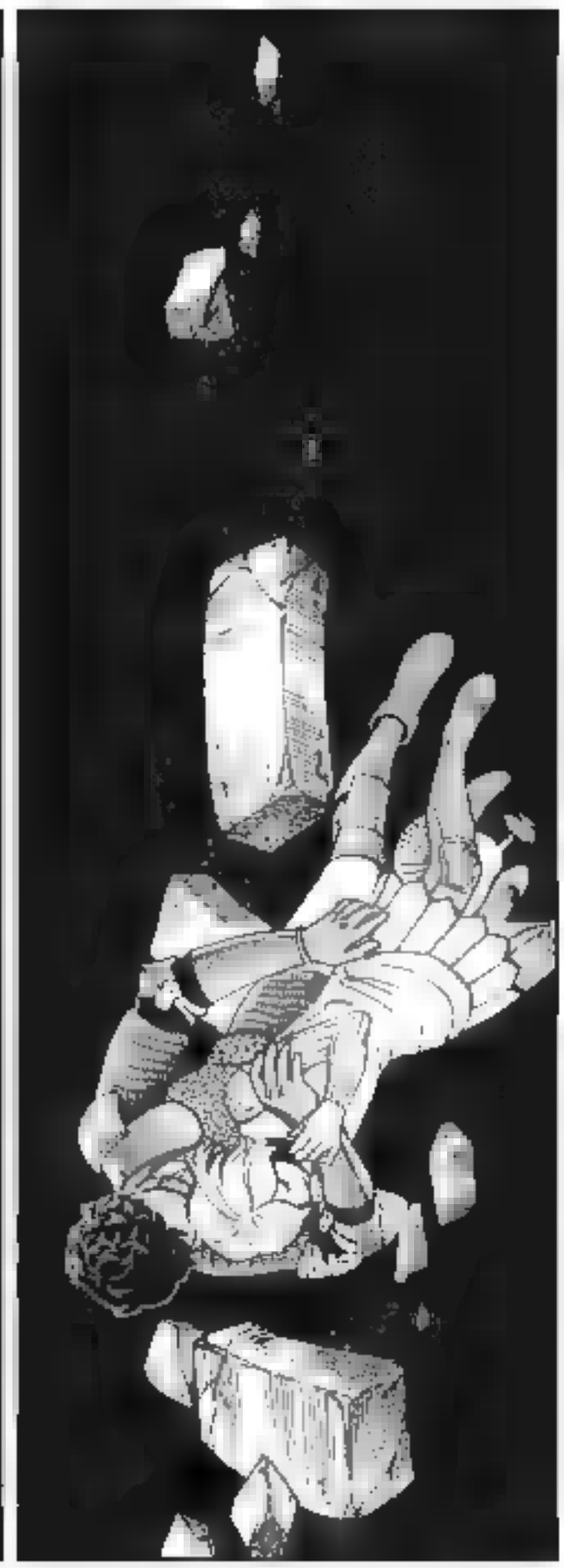
THE FLOOR'S CRUM-BLING!
HE'S TRYING TO FLEE UNDER-GROUND.

OR...
...IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE?

WEREN'T YOU GOING TO CONQUER THE DUNGEON?
IT WON'T HAPPEN IF YOU'RE DEAD.


GARA
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA

IT'S UP TO YOU NOW, LAIOS.



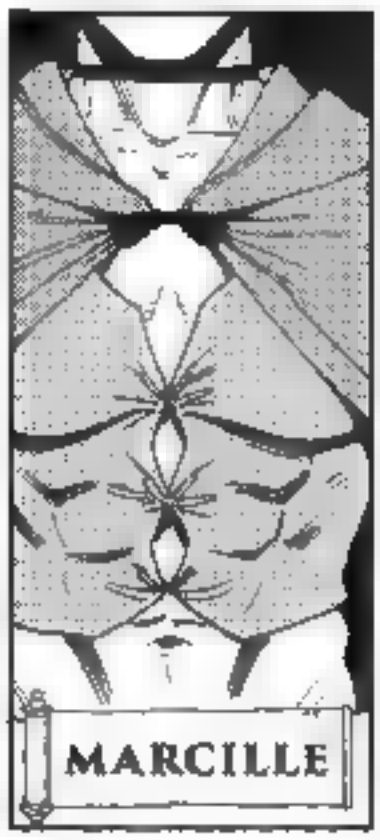
MEAN-WHILE, LAIOS AND COMPANY WERE...

WOW. WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT?

A GIANT CHANGELING WALKING MUSHROOM.

FLOORS WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT ARE SCARY.

ZAN (ZGH)



WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE BATHS.
FOR NOW, LET'S RINSE OFF THE SPORES AND CHANGE BACK.
DWARF
GNOME
HALF-FOOT
ORC

.....BY THE WAY, WHAT DID MARCILLE TURN INTO?
A TROLL?
PROBABLY AN OGRE.
SHURO'S GROUP HAD ONE, REMEMBER?
SHE'S GOT HORNS TOO.

I'M MAKING A CURE.
ズン ズン
ZUN
ZUN (STOMP)
I REFUSE TO TRANSFORM EVERY TIME WE RUN INTO THESE THINGS.
OOH.
I UNDERSTAND HOW THEY WORK, BASICALLY.

ギコ
GIKO (SAW)
GIKO
ギコ
GIKO
ギコ

WOW, WHAT A STURDY BACK.
ZUN ZUN
ズン ズン
I'LL HELP!

SHE'S A WITCH.
BUTSU (MUTTER)
BUTSU
SLOWLY REDUCE UNTIL THICK WHILE CHANTING A SPELL.

ADD GIANT FROG SKIN, MANDRAKE ROOT, ALCOHOL, AND BUTTER (OR OIL).
CUT AWAY THE BACK OF THE MUSHROOM CAP.

GASSHI
がっし
GASSHI
GASSHI (KNEAD)
がっし
...ADD ONION, EGG, SHREDDED BREAD, AND SEASONINGS AND MIX UNTIL ELEMENTS ARE EVENLY INCORPORATED.

GIMME THAT.
COMBINE GROUND MINOTAUR AND HIPPO-GRIFF MEAT...

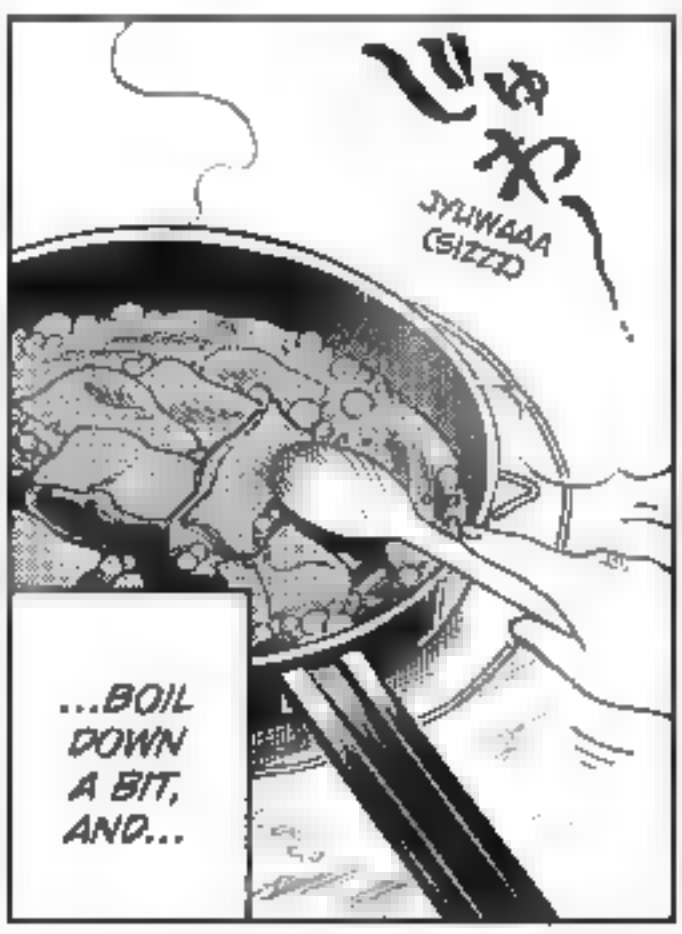
LET'S MAKE SOMETHING WHILE WE'RE WAITING.

CAREFUL...
NNH...
MINCE ONIONS, THEN SAUTÉ UNTIL CARAMEL-COLORED.

JYUUU (SIZZZ)
DENT THE CENTERS SLIGHTLY, THEN HEAT IN A FRYING PAN.
ONCE THEY'RE COOKED THROUGH...

...AND SHAPE IT, STRIKING THE AIR OUT.
PECHIN (SPAK)
PECHIN

TAKE OUT A PALMFUL ...


じゅわ
JYUWAAA (SIZZZ)
...BOIL DOWN A BIT, AND...

DOBAA (BLOOSH)
REMOVE THE MEAT, MIX MARCILLE'S MEDICINE AND SEASONINGS WITH THE REMAINING MEAT JUICES...
ささっ
SASA (SCUTTLE)

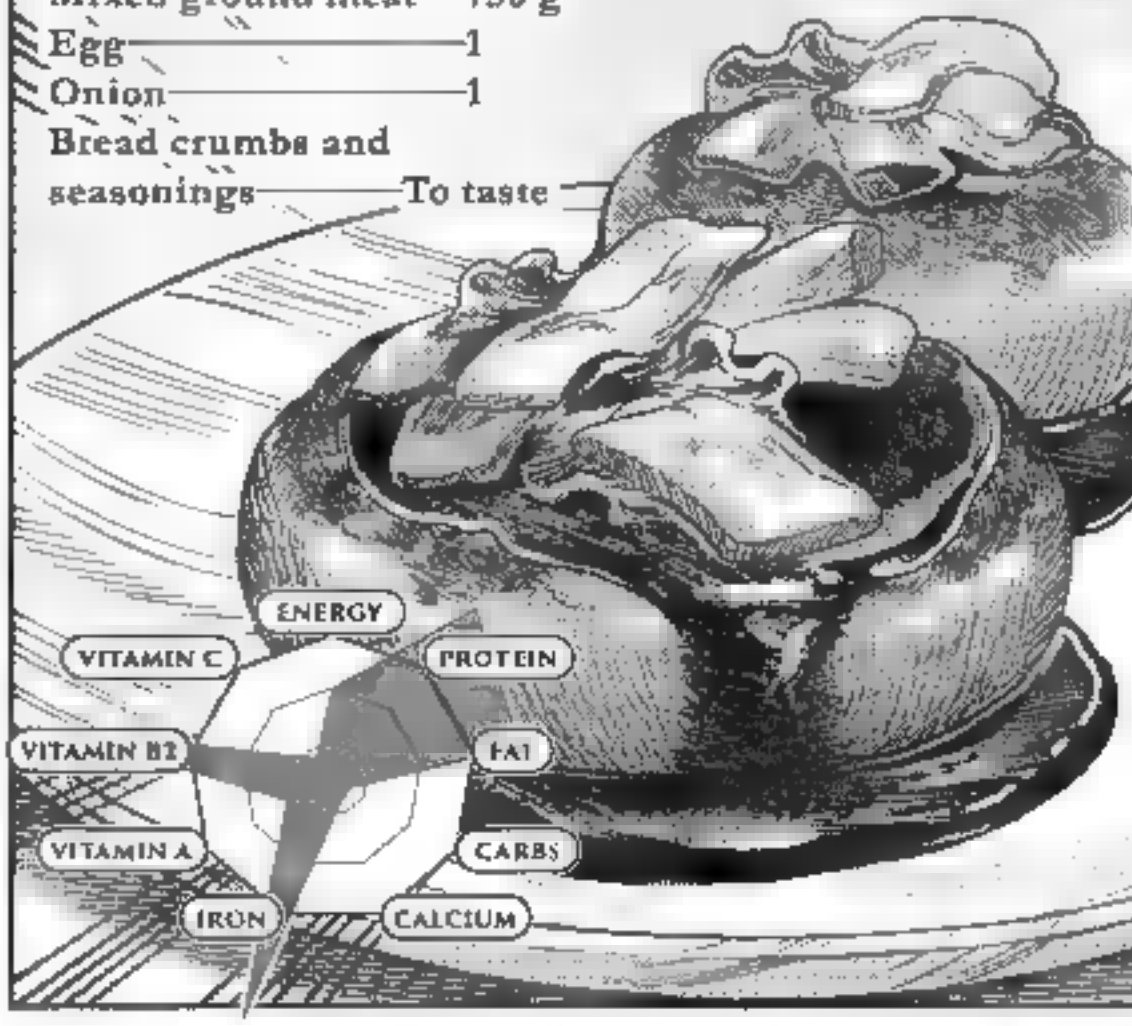
PHEW!
I'LL LET IT COOL FOR A BIT.

Hamburg Steak with Changeling Sauce

[Hamburger]

Ingredients

Mixed ground meat — 750 g
Egg — 1
Onion — 1
Bread crumbs and seasonings — To taste

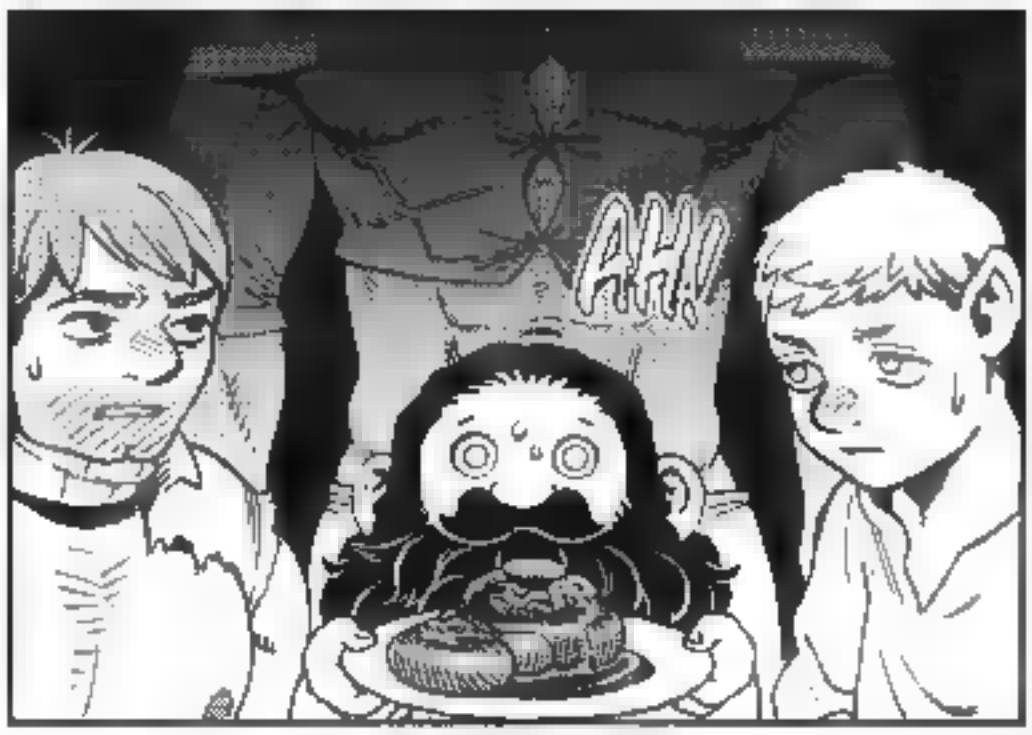


IT'S DONE!

[Mushroom Sauce]

Ingredients

Changelings — 500 g
Giant frog skin — A little
Mandrake root — A little
Butter and seasonings — As needed



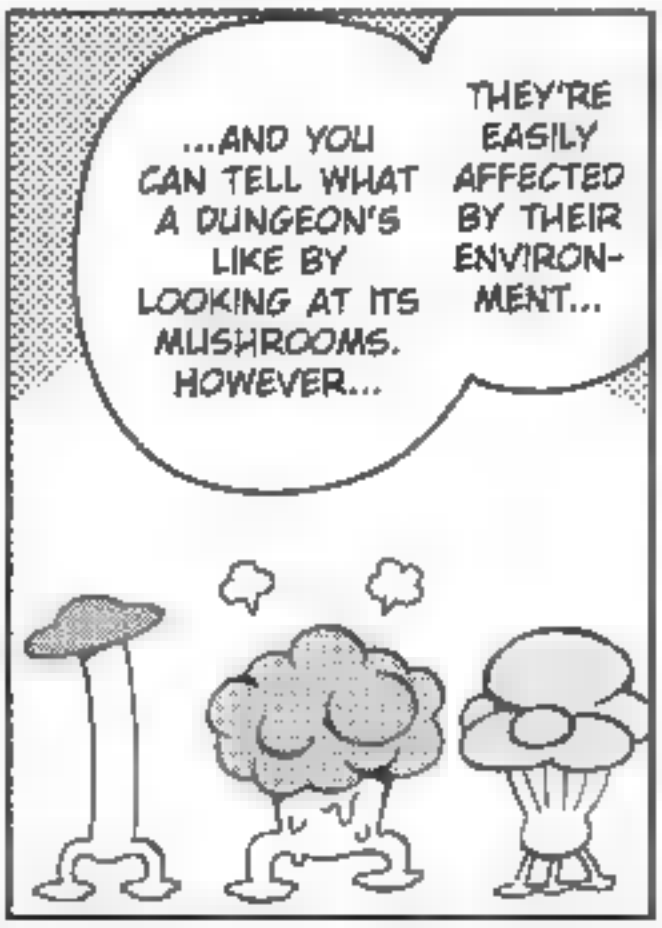
THEY ATE IT.

WHAT'S WRONG, SENSHI !?
THERE, SEE!? WHAT DID I TELL YOU!?

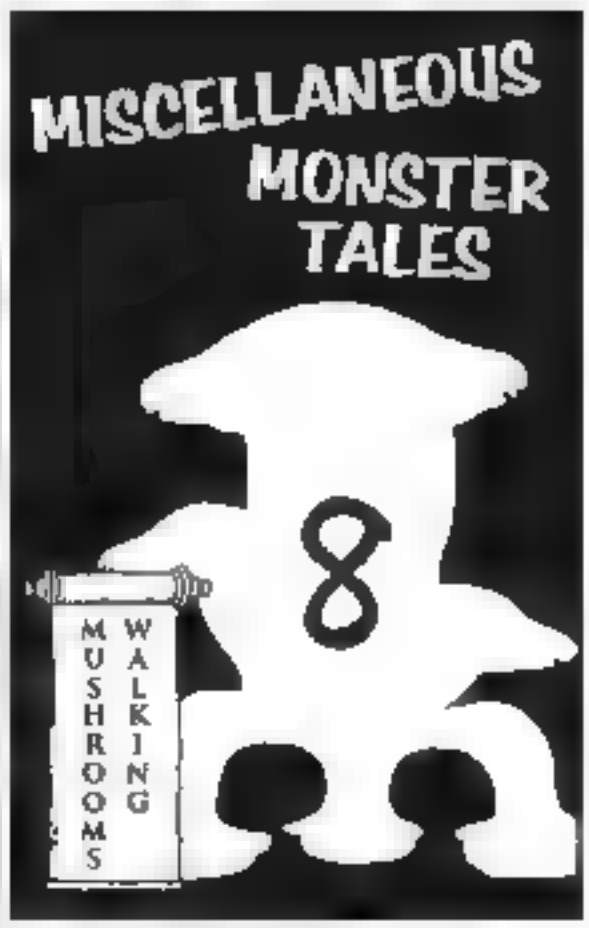
DOKUN (BADMP)
UU!

THE MUSH-ROOMS SUPPORT THE MEAT NICELY.
DELICIOUS.

IT'S ALL UP TO YOU, LAIOS...
DWAH HA HA HA HA HA HA!
IT ONLY CURED PART OF YOU!!
ARGH. GIVE ME A BREAK.
GYA HA HA HA!
MUSHROOMS, YUM!


...AND YOU CAN TELL WHAT A DUNGEON'S LIKE BY LOOKING AT ITS MUSHROOMS. HOWEVER...
THEY'RE EASILY AFFECTED BY THEIR ENVIRONMENT...

AS A RULE...
...THERE ARE WALKING MUSHROOMS AND SLIMES IN EVERY DUNGEON.


MISCELLANEOUS MONSTER TALES
8
WALKING MUSHROOMS

BUSHU (PSHOO)
RIGHT, WITH THOSE SPORES.
NO, NO, NOT THAT.

THEY'RE ONLY AS TOUGH AS MUSHROOMS WALKING, BUT THERE'S ONE NASTY PROBLEM.
THEY DRAW HUMANS TO THEM.

SFX: ZUMOMOMOMOMOMO (LOOM)
...BY THE TIME WE GET DISPATCHED, THEY'RE USUALLY UP TO THAT SIZE.

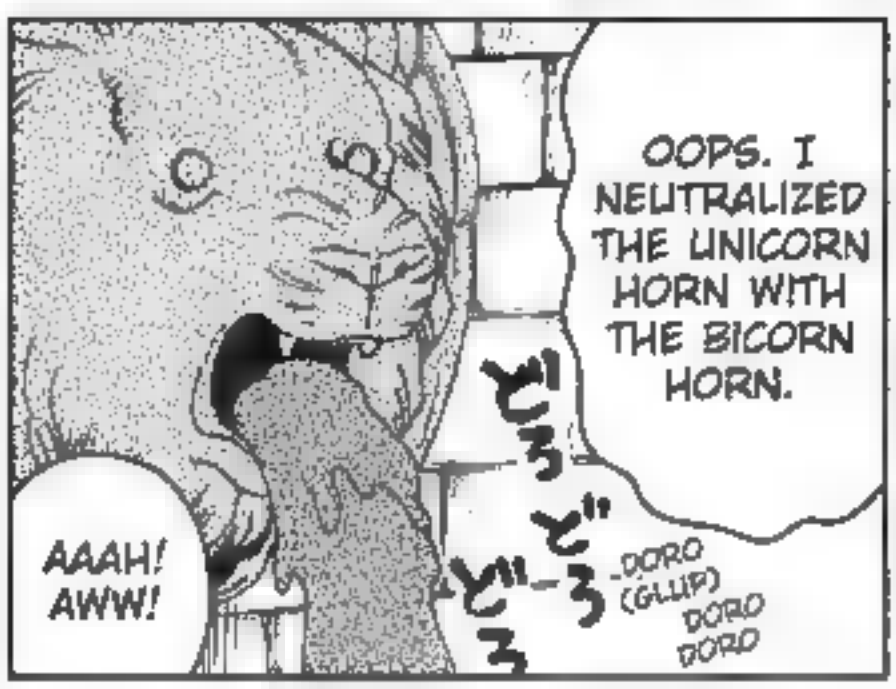
SOME SAY THEIR NUMBERS RIVAL THE DRAGON FANCIERS.
LATELY, IT SEEMS NO MATTER WHERE WE GO, SOME WALKING MUSHROOM ASSOCIATION HAS GOTTEN THERE FIRST.
THEY'RE SERIOUSLY IN THE WAY.
WALKING MUSHROOMS ARE THAT BIG A DEAL?

WALKING MUSHROOM LOVERS COME TO LOOK AT THEM!
DON'T PUSH. QUIT SHOVING.
OOH, THAT'S A BIG ONE.

GAH...
...THEY'RE TEMPERA-MENTAL AND WILL ONLY WARM UP TO CHASTE DAMSELS—
HOWEVER, IN CONTRAST TO THEIR BEAUTY...
WELL, GOOD FOR THEM. GEEZ.
UNICORNS' HORNS HAVE THE POWER TO PURIFY ANY WATER.
UNICORN
BICORN

THEY'RE WHY WE'RE ALWAYS ABLE TO DRINK CLEAN WATER.
SEE? THE MATERIAL ON THE LION'S FANGS IS DIFFERENT.

I HEAR THEY'RE OFTEN USED IN THE DETAIL WORK ON SPRING OUTLETS IN DUNGEONS.
WITH THAT HORN, YOU CAN MAKE ANY WATER DRINKABLE.


AAAH! AWW!
OOPS. I NEUTRALIZED THE UNICORN HORN WITH THE BICORN HORN.
DORO (GLUP) DORO DORO

ZAAA. (GUSHO)
OH!

KOTSUN (TAP)

IDIOT!
YOU HAD TO SAY IT, HUH!?

SO WE'VE BEEN DRINKING THIS ALL THIS TIME...

BLECH.
IT STINKS.
I'M GLAD WE ALREADY REFILLED OUR FLASKS.

TALL-MEN HAVE NOTHING THAT SETS THEM APART. THEY'RE BORING.
I HATE IT!!
YOUR CURRENT FORM SUITS YOU BEST.

I WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN A TROLL...

TROLL

OTHERS ARE A LITTLE DIM...
OTHERS ARE GREEDY AND LAY WASTE TO THINGS.
SOME ARE HUGE AND MON-STROUSLY STRONG.
WELL, YOU'RE NOT WRONG.

ON THE OTHER HAND, TROLLS APPEAR IN ALL SORTS OF STORIES FROM ALL TIMES AND PLACES...
...BUT THEY ALL LOOK SUBTLY DIFFERENT. THEY'RE RICHLY VARIED.

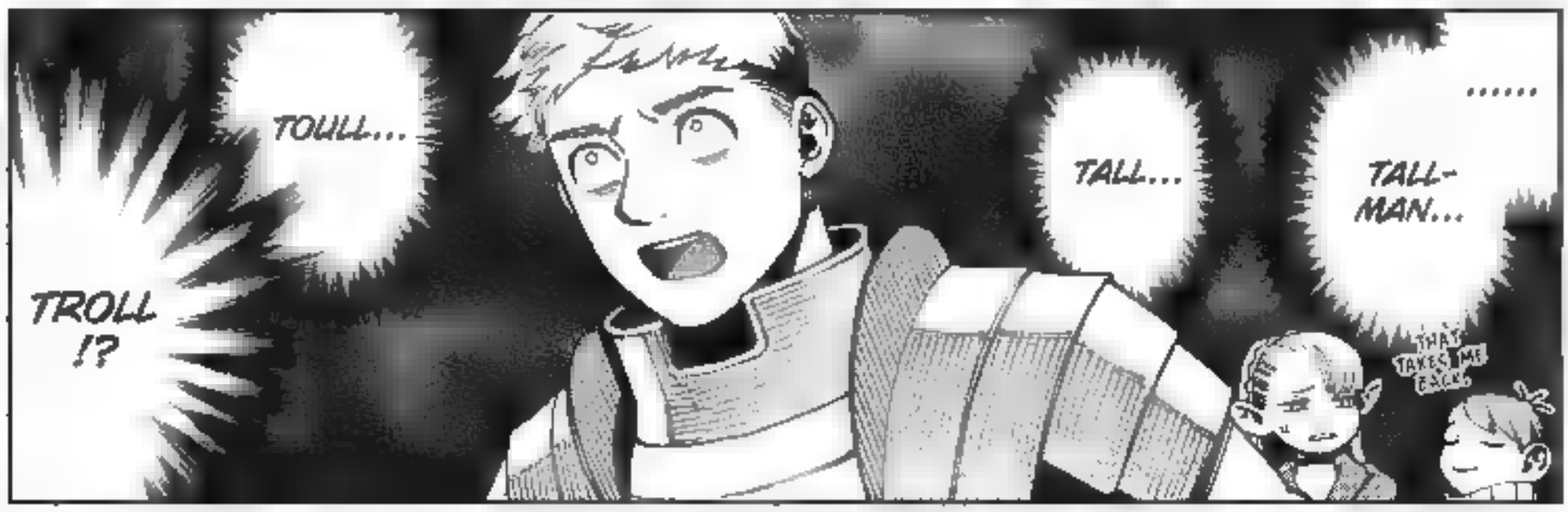
DWAH-HA-HA! OKAY, OKAY.
I'LL TELL YOU.

REALLY!? WHAT SORT OF CREATURE WAS IT!?
WELL, IT WAS JUST LIKE THE RUMORS SAY...
CHIL-CHUCK!

HUH? CHILCHUCK, YOU'VE SEEN A TROLL?
...YEAH.

THEY'RE STORIES WE MADE UP TO KEEP KIDS OUT OF DANGER...
THEY WERE TOLD ALL OVER, THEN SPREAD TO OTHER PLACES.
...BACK WHEN THE RACES DIDN'T INTERACT MUCH.
"TROLL" WAS ORIGINALLY ONE OF OUR WORDS—AND IT REFERS TO YOU TALL-MEN!

YOUR SNACKS ARE GONE?
A TROLL PROBABLY ATE THEM.
DO WHAT YOUR PARENTS SAY, OR A TROLL WILL KIDNAP YOU.
EEK!
HURRY UP AND SLEEP, OR THE TROLL WILL COME!
I USED THEM WHEN MY DAUGHTERS WERE LITTLE TOO.


TOULL...
TALL...
.....
TALL-MAN...
TROLL !?
THAT TAKES ME BACK.

NOT TO US, ANYWAY— WE'RE WAY MORE MEDIOCRE THAN YOU.
RELAX.
YOU PEOPLE AREN'T HALF AS BLAND AS YOU THINK YOU ARE.

TRANSLATION NOTES

Page 32
In Japan, having a "cat's tongue" means you're extra-sensitive to the temperature of your food and have a hard time eating or drinking hot things. The phrase isn't usually applied to actual cats.

Page 41
The mushkhushshu is a creature from Mesopotamian mythology said [redacted] have scales, hind legs like an eagle's, the forelimbs of a lion, a long neck and tail, horns, a snake-like tongue, and a crest. Images of this beast adorn the reconstructed Ishtar Gate, a famous entryway [redacted] the ancient city of Babylon.

Page 59
The gargoyle's transformation is a send-up of the famous *Manneken Pis* statue in Brussels, Belgium. The current statue [redacted] put in place in 1618 or 1619 (original installation is unknown) and actually was intended [redacted] produce potable water for public consumption.

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8

DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

RYOKO KUI

Translation: Taylor Engel **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

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WOR

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SO, LISTEN...
BREAKFAST TODAY: PORRIDGE WITH MILK AND NUTS

...WHAT SORT OF PERSON IS YOUR WIFE?

CHIL-CHUCK WAS SEEING RED.
CHAPTER 56

HOW DID YOU PRO-POSE?

WHAT DO YOU CALL EACH OTHER!?
HOW DID YOU MEET?

WHAT DREW YOU TO HER?
IS SHE PRETTY? OR CUTE?

NO, BUT...
CHEATED.
CHEATED...
CHEATED.
CHEATED?

BECAUSE I CHEATED ON HER!!
SO FROM NOW ON!!
NEVER!! EVER!! BRING THAT UP AGAIN!!!
I TOLD YOU, WE'RE TOTAL STRANG-ERS NOW!!
SHUT UP!!!

HE'D BEEN EXPLORING DUNGEONS FOR A LONG TIME...

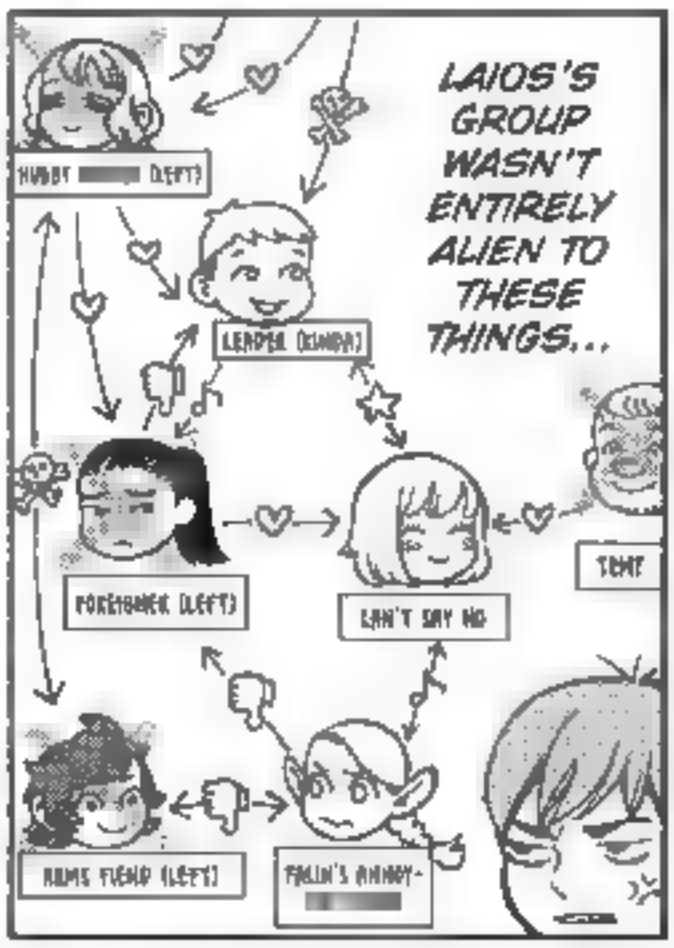
WHAT'S YOUR TYPE, IZUTSUMI?

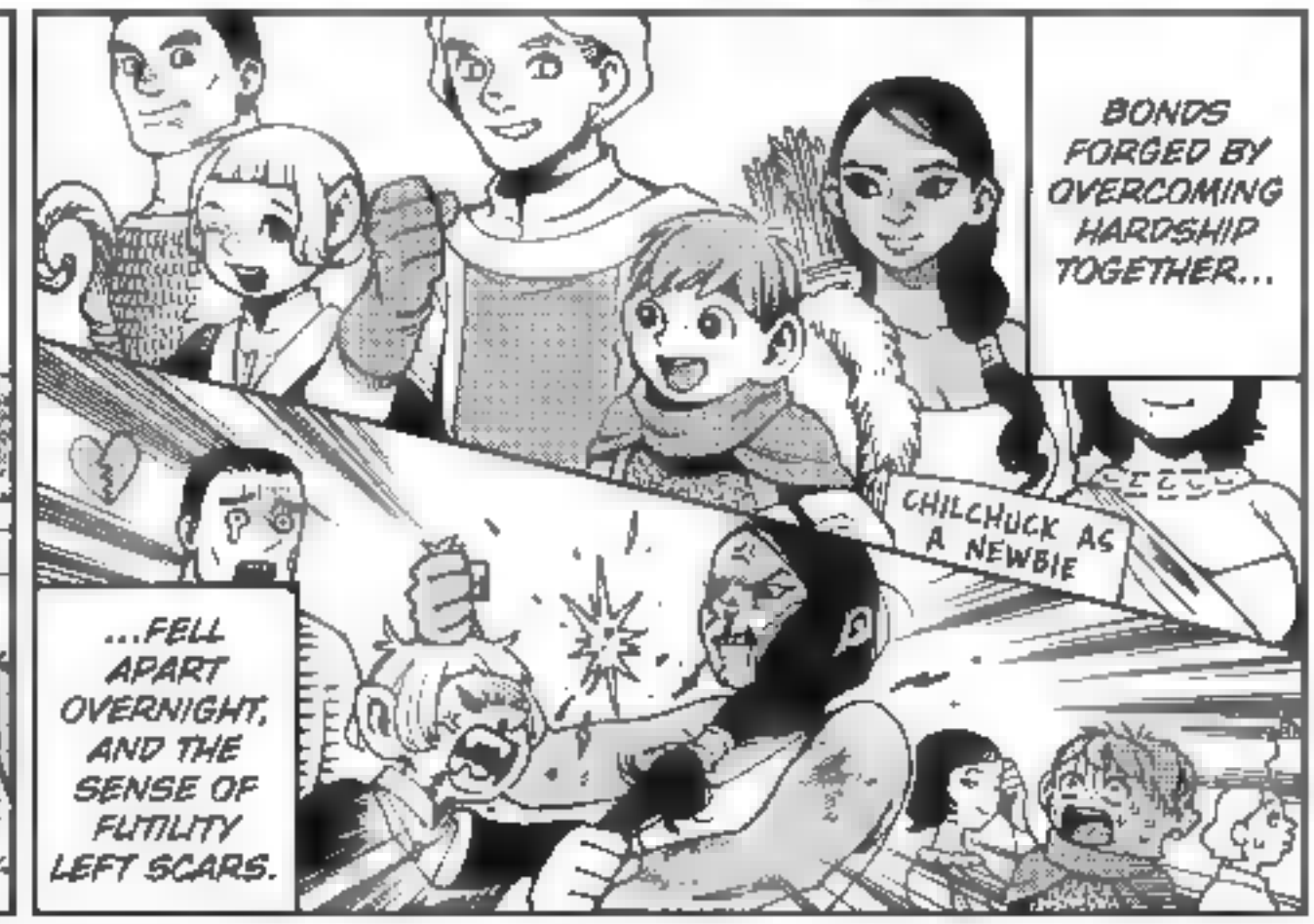
CHILCHUCK DESPISED "ROMANCE ABOVE ALL" TYPES...

...FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART.

...AND INTERPARTY ROMANCE HAD PROVED TO BE THE HAIRIEST PART OF THE JOB.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST LOVE LIKE, SENSHI?





56. BICORN
ROYAL GRAVE
THE GOLDEN CITY
S-sorry to keep you waiting...
BURST OUT LAUGHING.
TELL HER SHE'S PRETTY.
If you're free, let's go grab a drink.
AGREE.
REFUSE.
FLOOR 5
SAY NOTHING.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU GUYS.
FLOOR 3
FALIN
But Kora—!!
STOP HER.
I'll recover you. Hold out your hand.
HOLD IT OUT.
SQUEEZE HER HAND.
FLY INTO A RAGE!
SAY NOTHING.
LET THEM DO WHAT THEY WANT.

THIS IS...

OOW!

WE'LL HAVE TROUBLE WITH AERIAL ATTACKS.
WE CAN'T AVOID COMBAT, THOUGH.

WHAT AN AMAZING PLACE.
THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT DWARF CITY?
WAS THAT TROLLEY HOW THEY GOT AROUND?

...WHO KNOWS WHAT SORT OF MONSTERS LIVE HERE.
THAT SAID...

YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE'LL HAVE TO HUNT SOON.
YESTERDAY'S HAMBURGER WAS THE LAST OF OUR MEAT.

GOAT?

BEFORE WE EAT RATS, I'D RATHER HAVE THAT GOAT.

I HATE RATS!
THEY TASTE NASTY.
I BET THERE ARE RATS, BUT...

モゾ
MOZO (FUZZY)

NO, THAT'S...
A COW?

SHE'S RIGHT. SOME-THING'S THERE.

IT'S A BICORN!

FRANKLY, "GOOD" ISN'T DEFINED WELL, AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT IT MEANS.

...OR SO I HEAR.

UNICORNS LOVE INTEGRITY AND PURITY. IN CONTRAST...

...BICORNS HATE GOODNESS, PREFERRING CORRUPTION AND IMMORALITY.

Unicorn

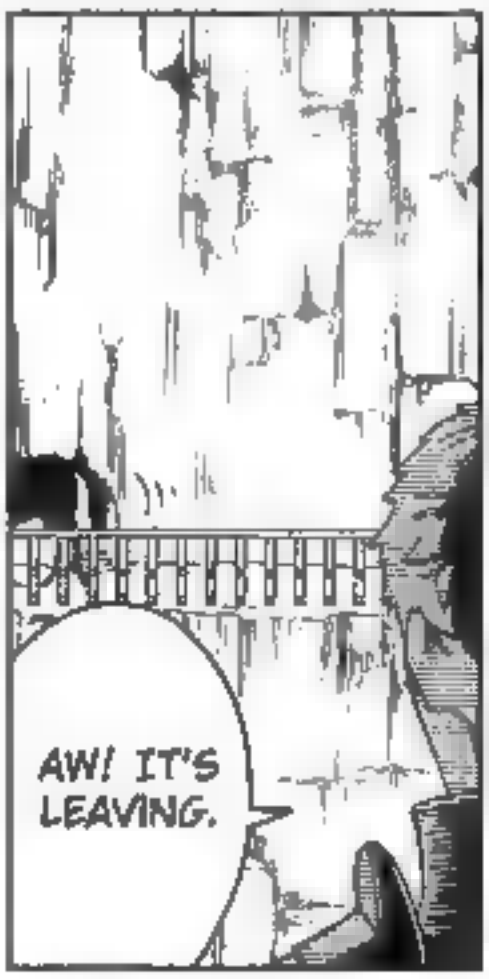
Bicorn

A BICORN?

THAT ISN'T A GREAT IDEA HERE.

I'D RATHER TAKE IT DOWN QUIETLY.

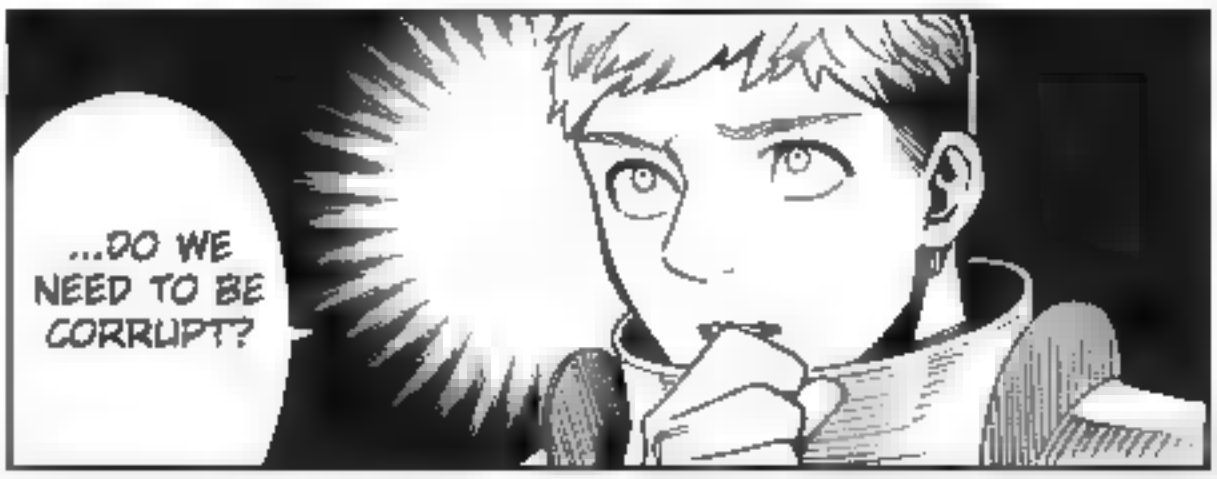
WANT TO BLOW IT UP?


AW! IT'S LEAVING.

...
OH! IT LOOKED THIS WAY.
SO COOL...

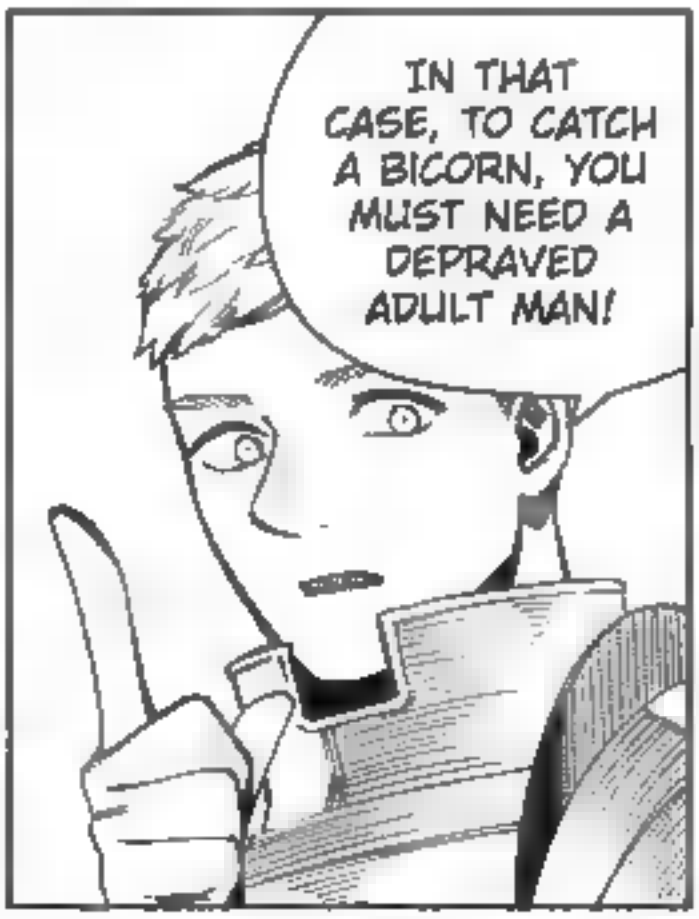
PIKU! TWITCH

HMMMMM...
IF IT WON'T COME TO US, IT'LL BE HARD TO CATCH IT.


...DO WE NEED TO BE CORRUPT?

WEIRD.
IT'S NOT INTERESTED IN US.
I HEAR THEY'RE FIERCE MONSTERS, BUT...

A DEPRAVED ...
...ADULT MAN...


IN THAT CASE, TO CATCH A BICORN, YOU MUST NEED A DEPRAVED ADULT MAN!

HUH?
TO CATCH A UNICORN, YOU USE A PURE YOUNG GIRL.

WAKU (GIDDY)
WAKU
THEN I'LL TRY GETTING CLOSE TO IT, JUST TO SEE.
NO ONE STOPS HIM.

THERE'S NO WAY I'M DOING THAT.
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?

JIRI (CREEP)

THAT'S RIGHT, GOOD...
JIRI
JIRI

PIKU (TWITCH) PIKU

YOU'RE A BICORN, AREN'T YOU?
JIRI
AH. HELLO...
APPROACH SLOWLY, TALKING AS YOU GO

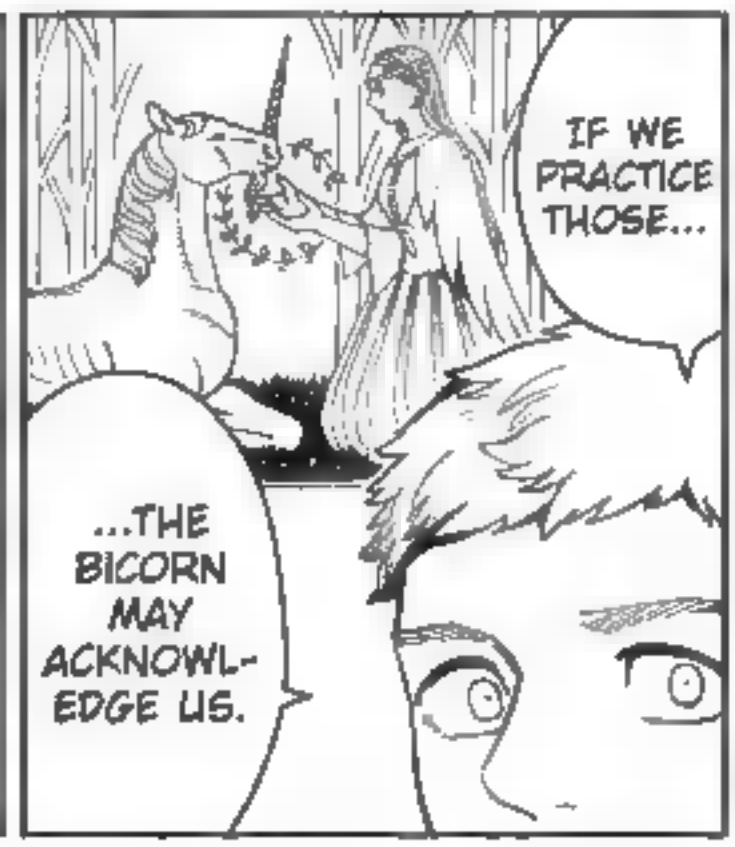
ぱかっ
PAKA (KACLOP)
PAKA
ぱかっ
ぱかっ
PAKA
AAH...!
ばっ
PA (BOLT)

WE'LL HAVE TO BECOME CORRUPT.

THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT.
WELL? WHAT DO WE DO?

AM I NOT DEPRAVED ENOUGH?
IT RAN AWAY.

WE'LL START WITH GLUT-TONY!


IF WE PRACTICE THOSE...
...THE BICORN MAY ACKNOWL-EDGE US.

SEVERAL THINGS ARE CONSIDERED VERY SINFUL.
HOW DO WE DO THAT?
ENVY, GREED, PRIDE, SLOTH, INFIDELITY, WRATH, GLUTTONY ...

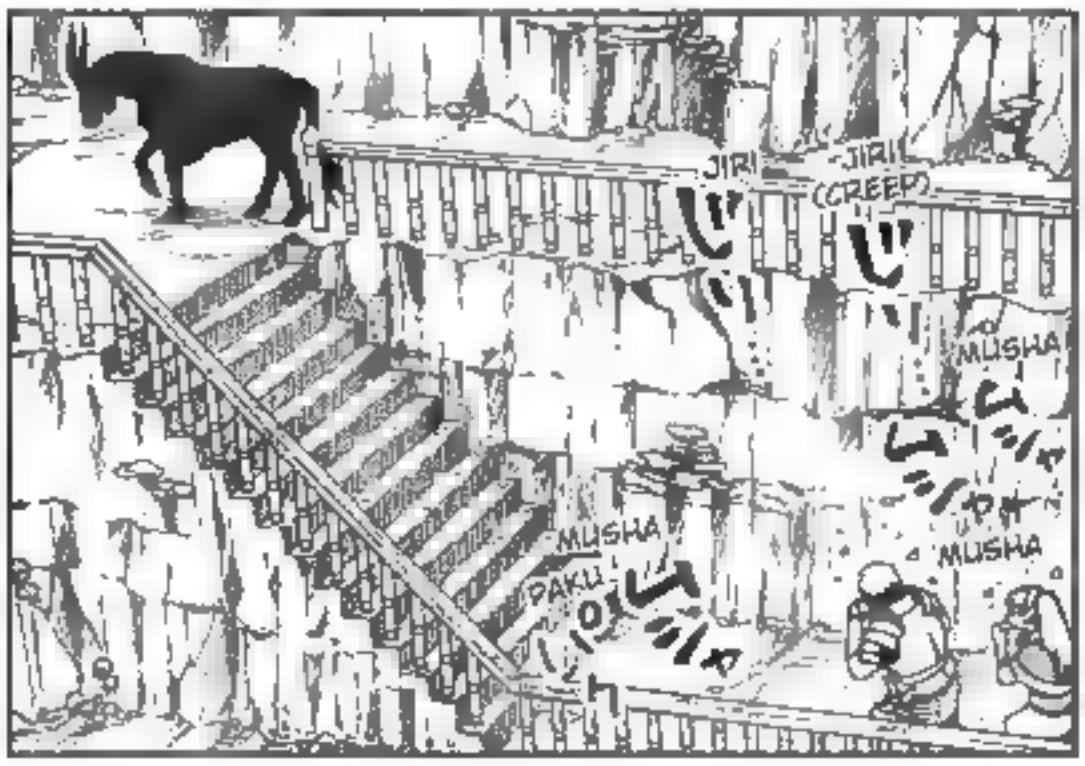
Crispy Mushroom and Egg Sandwich

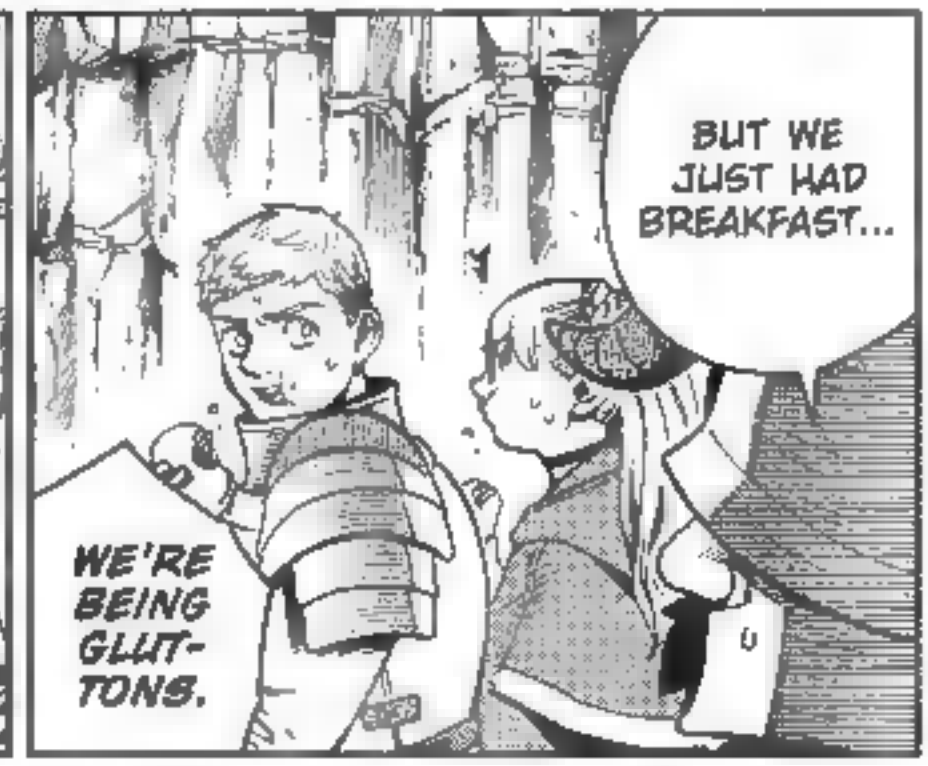
Ingredients

Bread	1 piece
Changelings	[redacted] g
Cockatrice egg	Half of 1
Mandrake leaves	As you like
Butter, salt, and pepper	To taste

NO MUSHROOMS ON IZUTSUMI'S

ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C





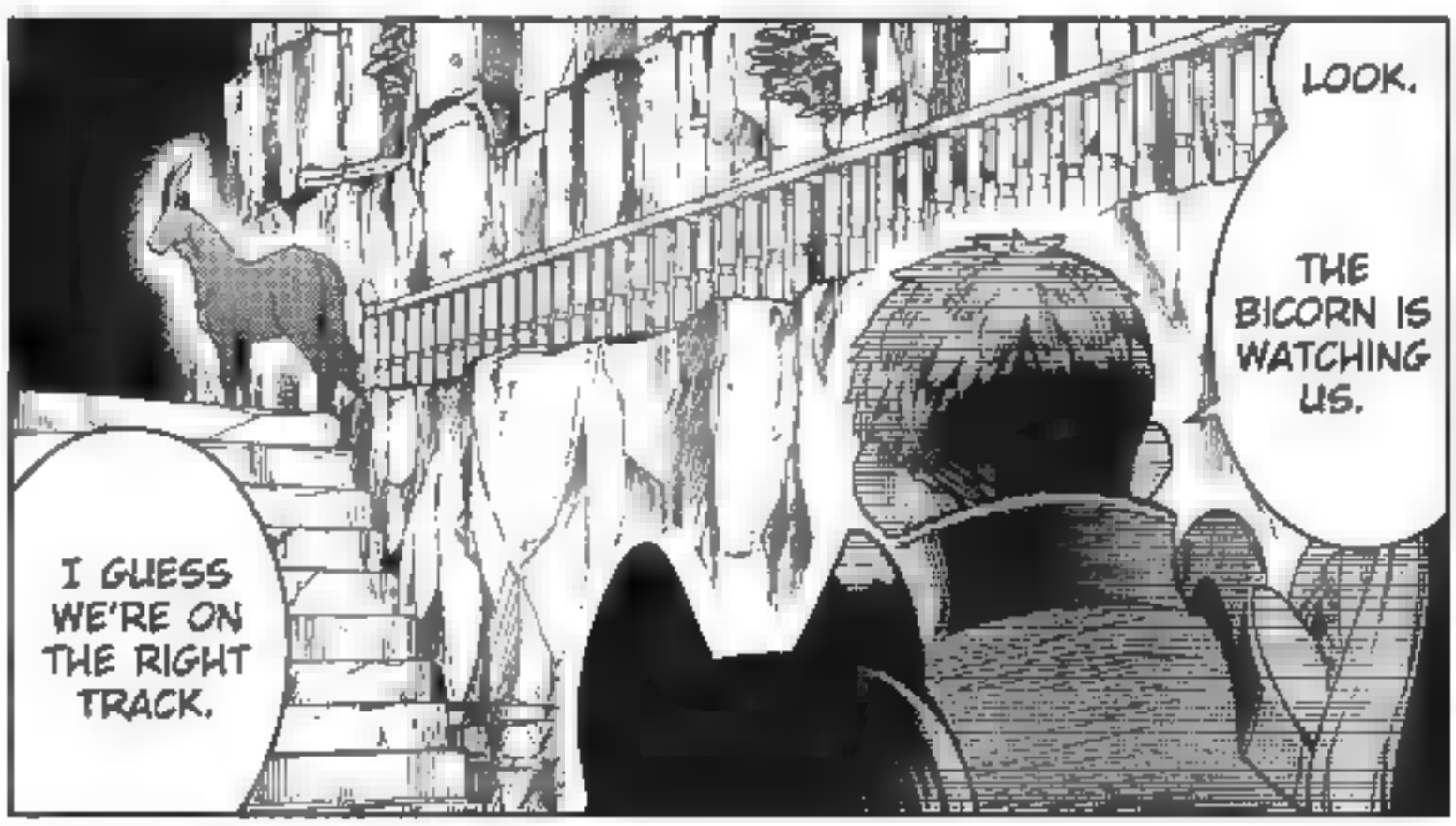
BLEH.
TRY IT.
SYRUP?

MM! YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT'S SURPRISINGLY GOOD!

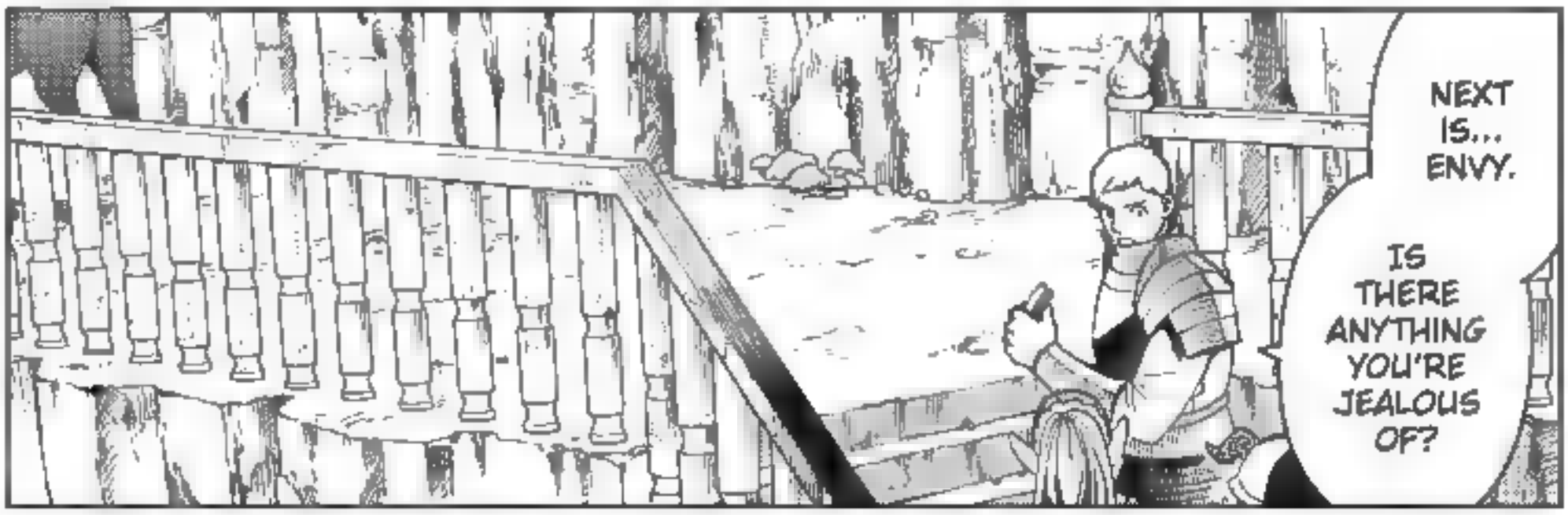
THE CRISPY MUSHROOMS ARE GOOD.
ALMOST LIKE BACON.
IT'S TASTY IF YOU PUT A LITTLE SYRUP ON THEM TOO.

SWEETS ARE FOR SNACKTIME.
I BET YOUR TASTE BUDS ARE SCREWY.
CHILCHUCK SCORNED THOSE WHO ADDED SWEETS TO THEIR MEALS TOO.
YOU'D GO THAT FAR?

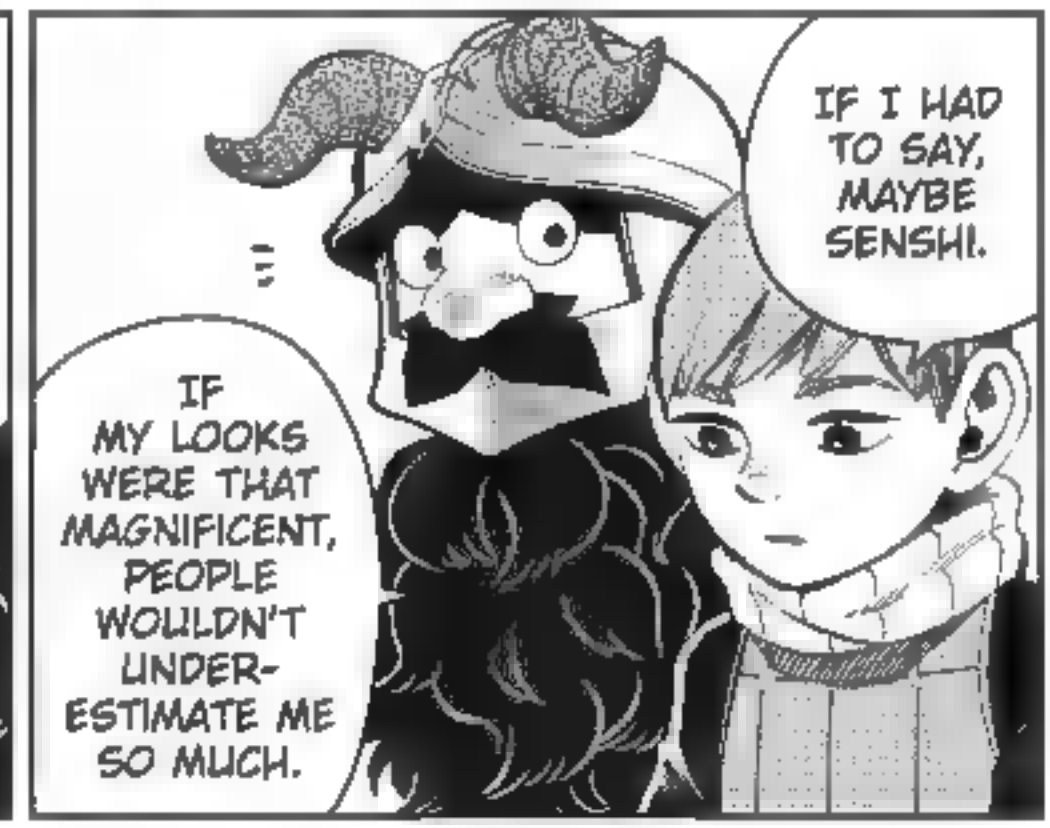
COME ON, CHILCHUCK, YOU TOO!
KNOCK IT OFF! THAT'S GROSS.


LOOK.
THE BICORN IS WATCHING US.
I GUESS WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

PIKU
(TWITCH)
PIKU


NEXT IS... ENVY.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'RE JEALOUS OF?

I ENVY YOU AS WELL, YOU KNOW.
HAVING YOUR SENSE OF TASTE AND SMELL WOULD HAVE WIDENED MY HORIZONS.


IF I HAD TO SAY, MAYBE SENSHI.
IF MY LOOKS WERE THAT MAGNIFICENT, PEOPLE WOULDN'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME SO MUCH.

I WISH I'D BEEN BORN AS A FOUR-LEGGED MONSTER !!
JIRI JIRI
JIRI (CREEP)
HFF!
HFF!
BICORN, I LOATHE YOU!!
CREEPY.

ENVY!
SO HE'S HONEST WITH SENSHI ABOUT THAT STUFF...
GOOD! THAT'S THE SPIRIT.

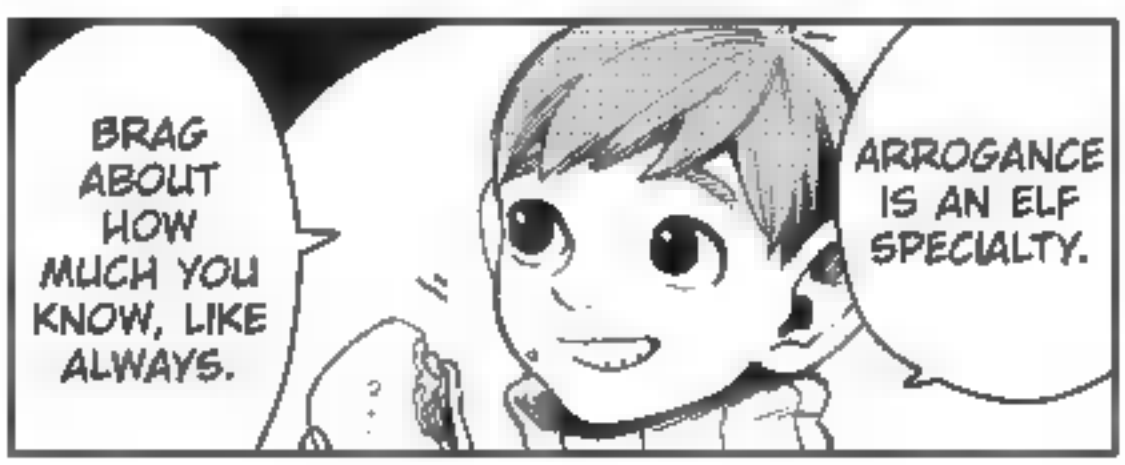
I'M TIRED OF THIS.
I'LL BE NAPPING OVER THERE. GOOD LUCK WITH ALL THIS.

WHAT'S WRONG, IZUTSUMI?

LET'S KEEP THIS UP!
GOOD, VERY GOOD! YOU'RE REALLY INTO THIS, IZUTSUMI!
YA
AAAA
DO
DO (TMP)
DO
DO

SLOTH, HUH!?
GASSHI (CLAMP)

HUH?
THAT'S A JOB FOR MARCILLE.


BRAG ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU KNOW, LIKE ALWAYS.
ARROGANCE IS AN ELF SPECIALTY.

NEXT IS PRIDE...
PRIDE IS TOUGH.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

DO YOU THINK IT'S OKAY TO SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT TO ME?
ARGH! YOU'RE PICKING ON ME AGAIN!
HUH?
GRRR!

CHILBLIVIOUS
WHA...?

YOU'RE SENSI-TIVE TO PREJ-UDICE THAT'S AIMED AT YOU...
...BUT YOU'RE OBLIVIOUS TO YOUR OWN!

THE BICORN STOPPED.
I BET WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

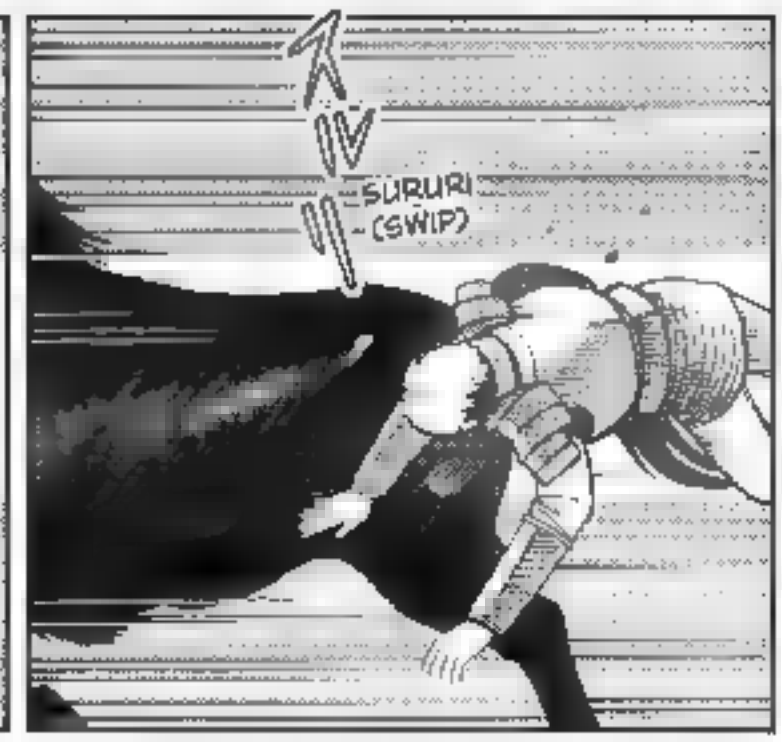
AND YOU BROUGHT OUT MARCILLE'S WRATH TOO!
I SEE! GOOD SHOW OF PRIDE, CHIL-CHUCK.

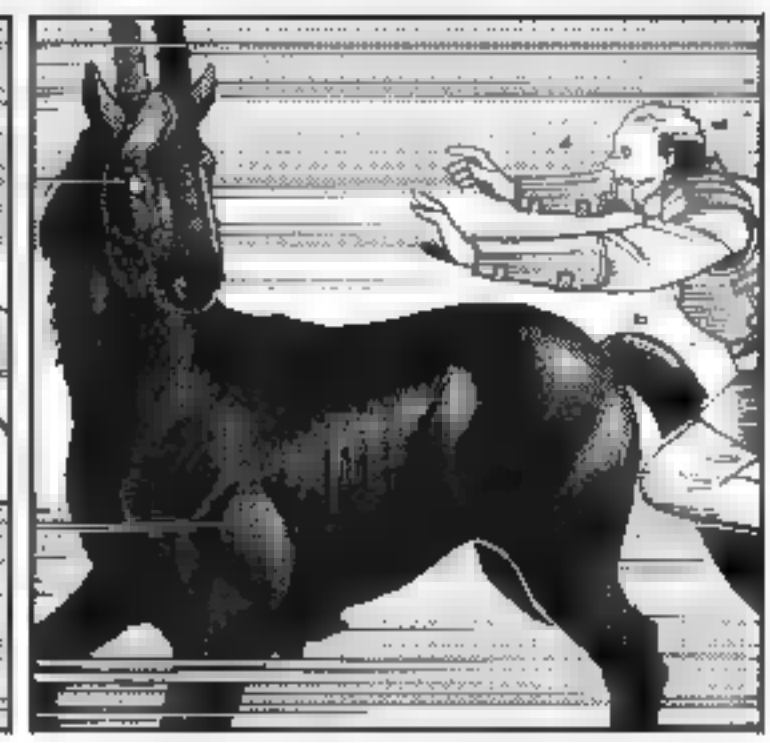
NO, I WANT ALL OF YOU!!

I'VE GOT GREED COVERED!!

BICORN!! I WANT YOUR FLESH AND YOUR HORNS—

RRRRAAAAA!





パカッ パカッ パカッ パカッ

IT'S NO GOOD.

I WAS ALMOST THERE, BUT...!

CHILCHUCK, CAN YOU HANDLE THAT ONE FOR US?

WHY!?

THE ONLY ONE LEFT...

...IS INFIDELITY.

I...I, UH...

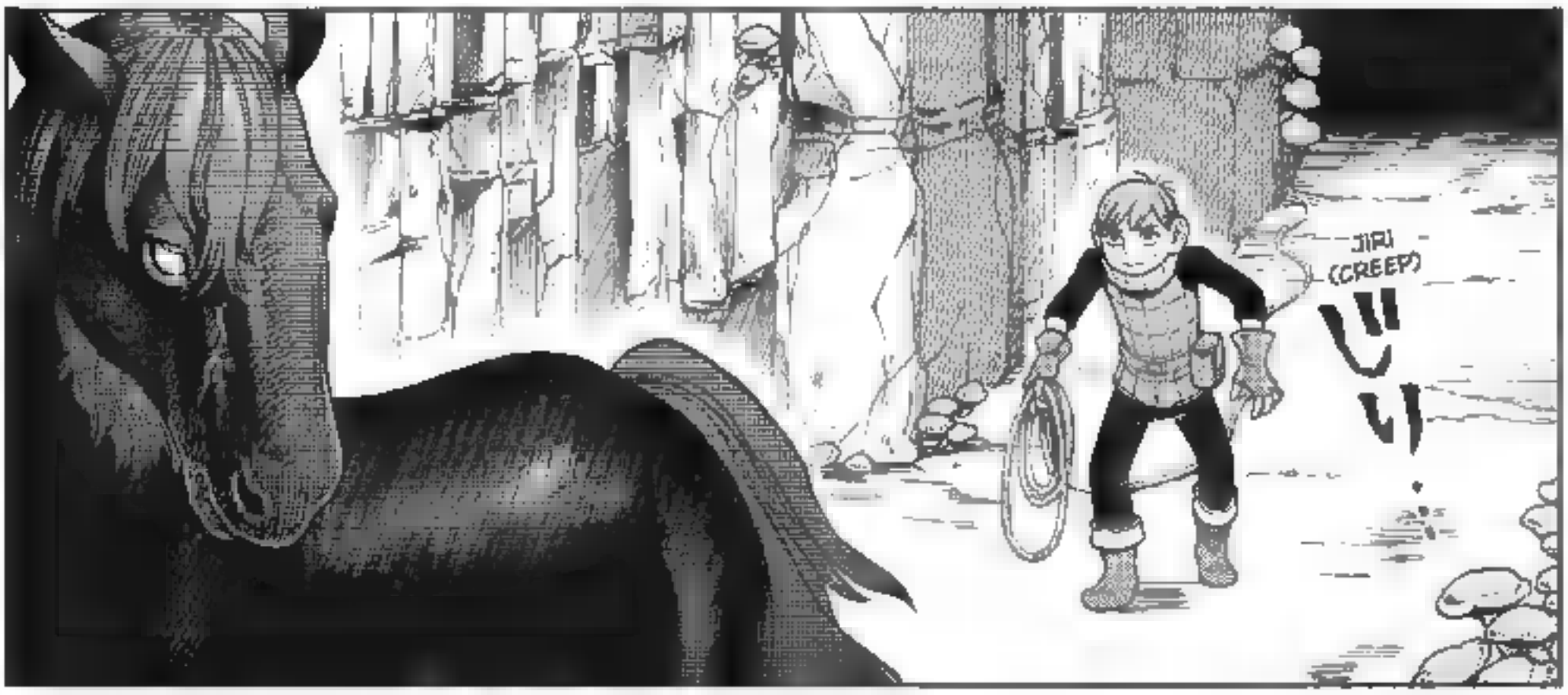
.....

YOUR WIFE LEFT BECAUSE YOU CHEATED, RIGHT?

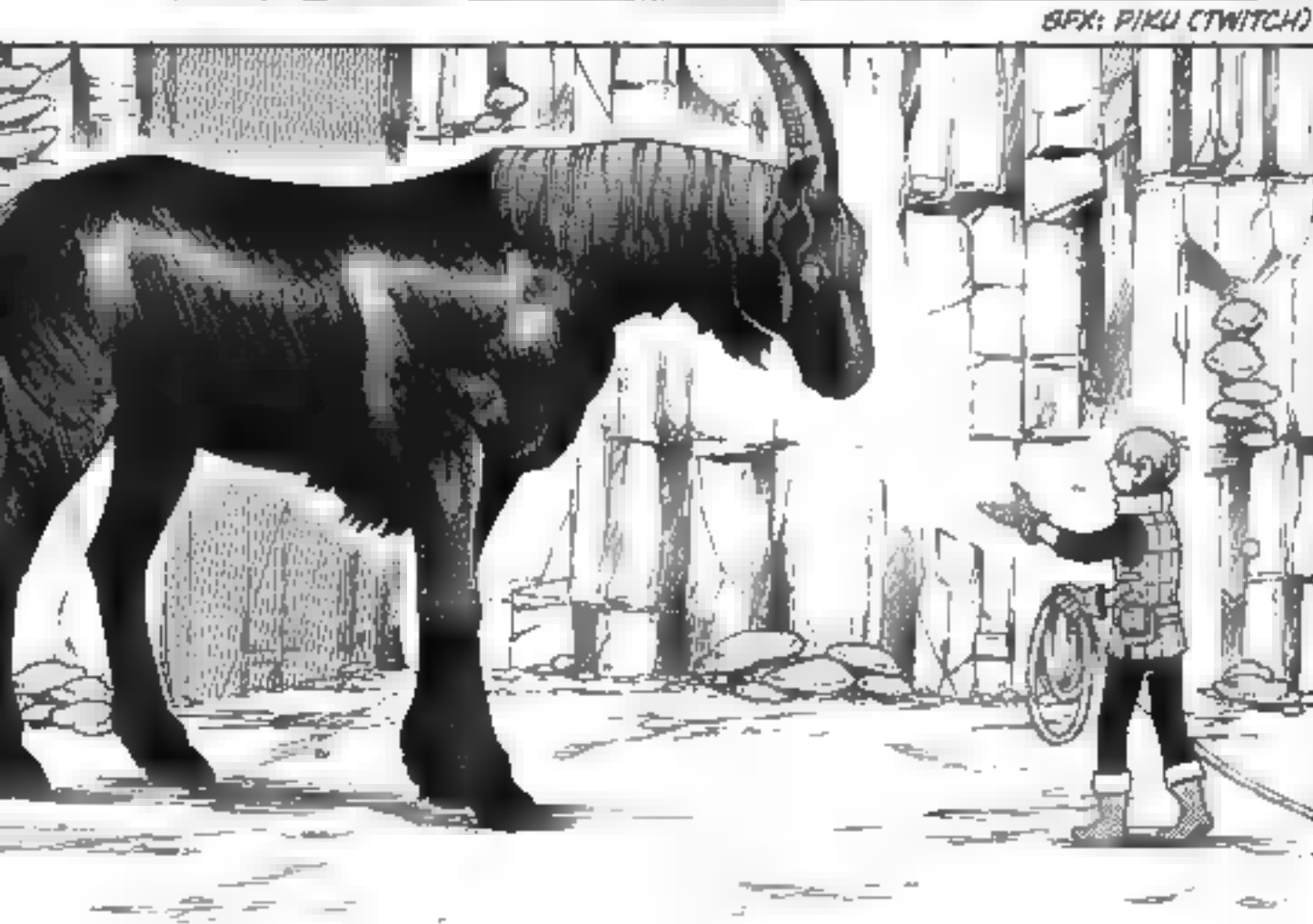
NONE OF US HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH INFIDELITY.

AGH!

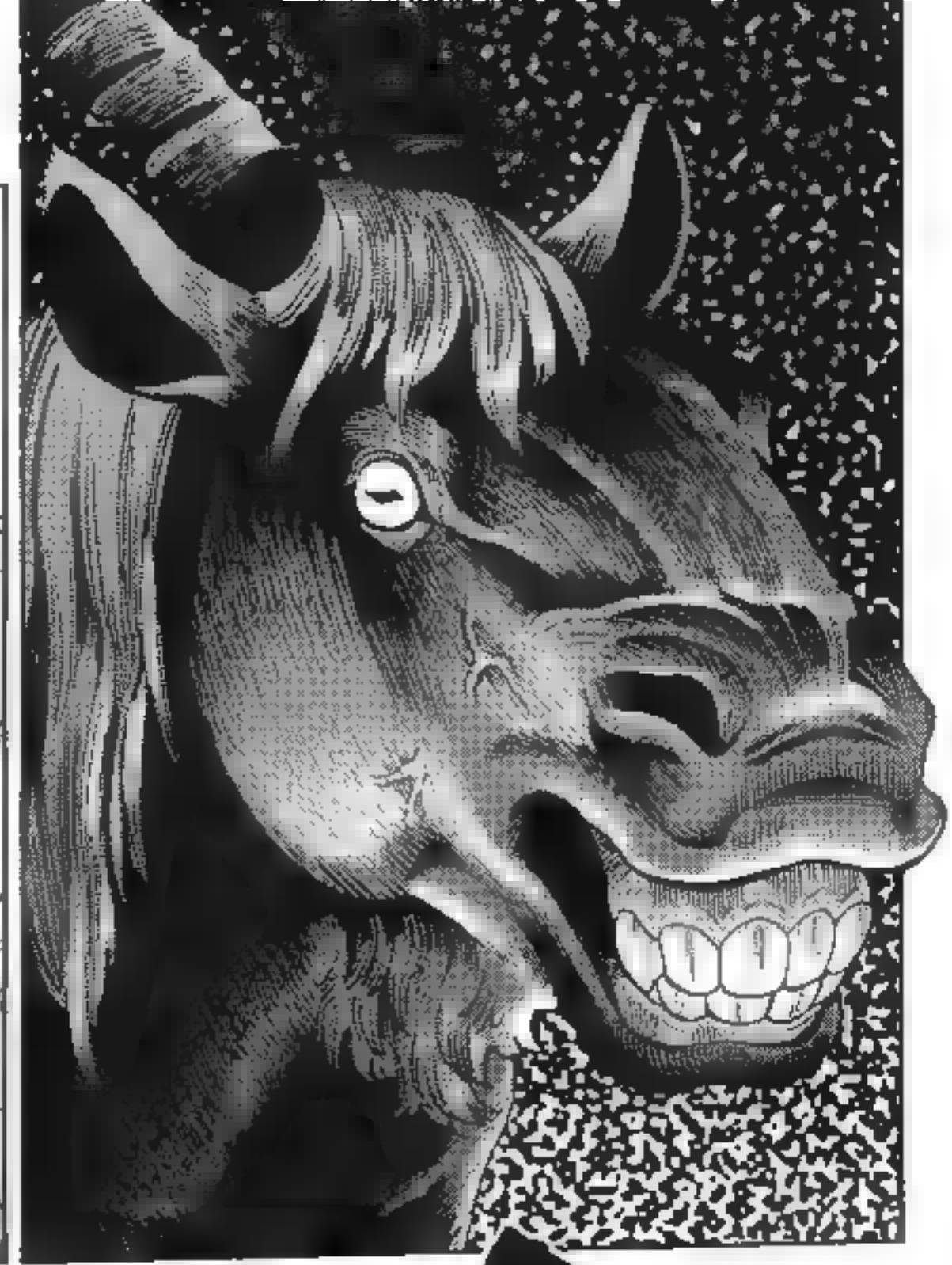
WHAT'S "INFIDELITY"?



SFX: PIKU (TWITCH) PIKU



ZO (SHUDDER)
IT SMIL—



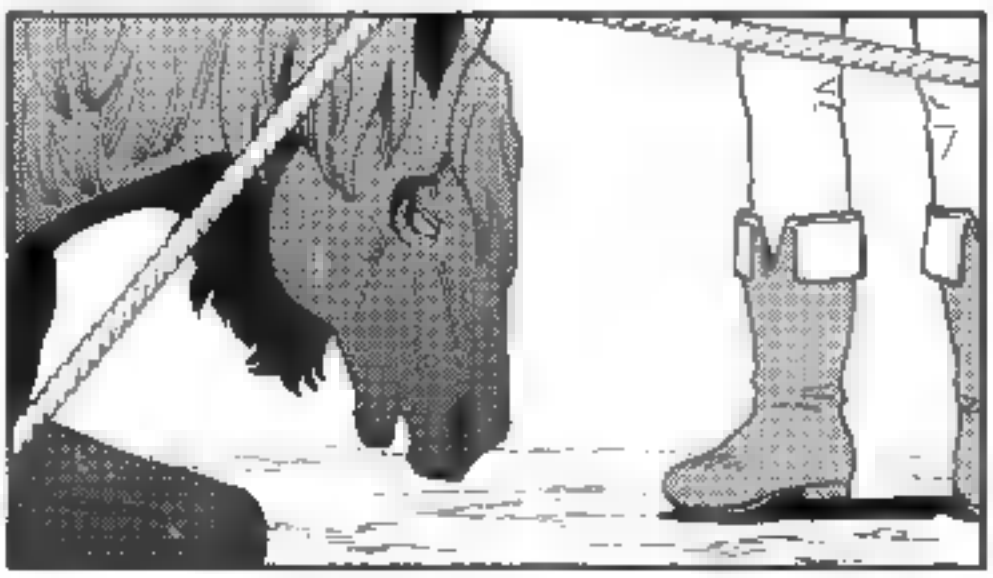
BAKU (CHOMP)
MIGHI (GRIND) MIGHI

BUN
BUN (SHAKE)
CHIL!!
TON (THOK)
PI (FLICK)
DOSA (WHUMP)
CHIL-CHUCK !!
PA (DROP)
HRNH!
KAAH!

GATSUN (WHUD)
DOSUN (WHUMP)
LAIOS, CATCH!
BA (FLING)
HYUN
HYUN (WHIR)
IZU-TSUMI! TIE THE ROPE AROUND ME.

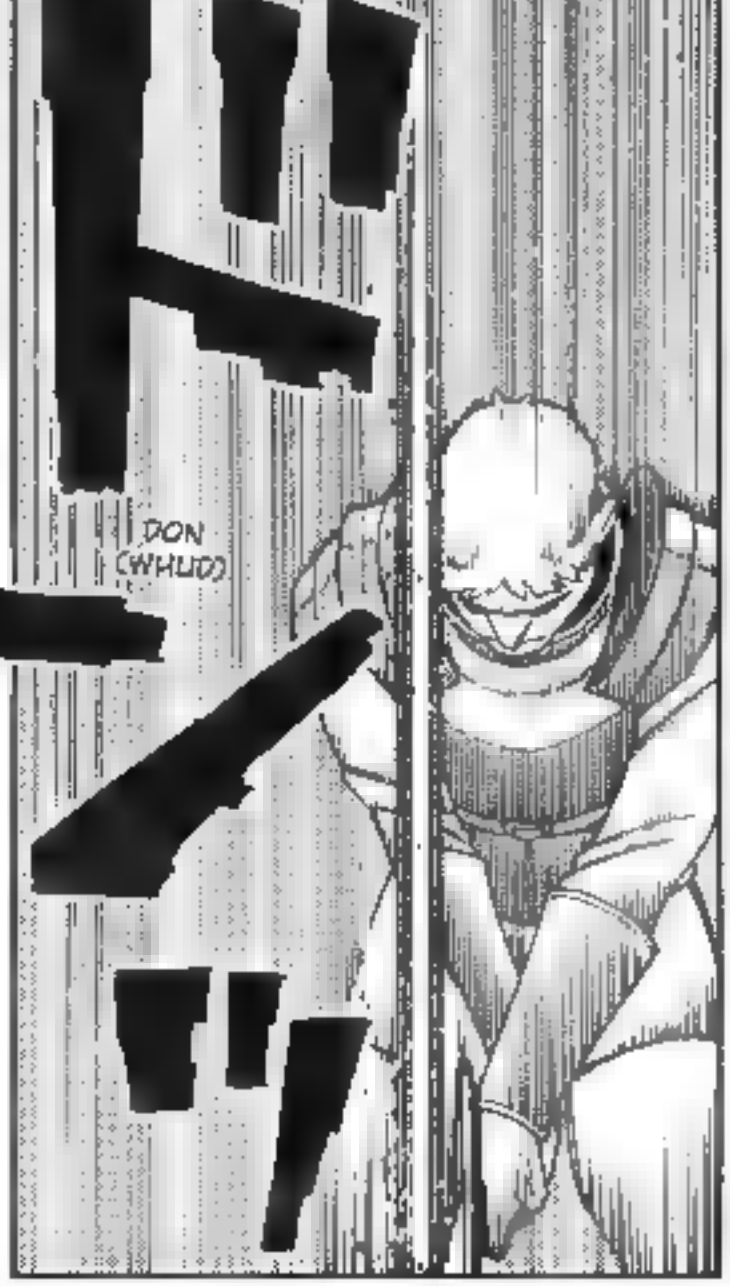
GURU (COIL)
じゃる
SA (WHISK)
サッ
じゃる
GURUN (WRAP)
ぱし
PASHII (SNATCH)
HRGH!
GUII (TUG)
グイ
IT CAUGHT!
HAUL ON IT!!
GURA (LURCH)
GIRI (STRAIND)
GIRI
ギリ

WAAH!
IT'S TIED!
IZU-TSUMI, THE ROPE!?
ON MY MARK, EVERYBODY, PULL TOGETHER!
GIRI
GIRI
GIRI (STRAIN)
GICHI GICHI (CREAK)
GUGUN (TUG)
AND HEAVE !!
GAKU (SLUMP)



WHFF...
HFFF...

Hff!
Hff!


!!
DON (WHLIO)
!!

FOR-
GIVE
ME!!

DO I LOOK OKAY?
I'LL HEAL YOU RIGHT AWAY!!

CHIL-CHUCK, ARE YOU OKAY!?

GOOD ONES?
ONE THEORY HAS IT THAT BICORNS ONLY EAT GOOD HUSBANDS.
BUT YOU CHEATED, SO I ASSUMED...
GRK!

I'M REALLY SORRY.
I FORGOT BICORNS SOMETIMES EAT HUMANS.
YOU FORGOT THAT?

OKAY, OKAY!!
I'LL TALK— JUST TAKE IT SLOWER!

WHY DID YOU JUST FLINCH!?
BIKI (CRIKLE)
ビキ
ビキ
BONES SNAPPING BACK IN PLACE
ビキ
BIKI BIKI
OW! OW! OW!!

WHY WOULD YOU LIE ABOUT THAT?

...YOU DIDN'T CHEAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE THING IS, I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY SHE LEFT.
VANITY, MAYBE...

HUH!?
B-BUT THAT'S ...!

ON THE WAY HOME, SHE SUDDENLY GOT MOODY...
...AND WHEN I CAME BACK FROM MY NEXT JOB, SHE WAS GONE.

A LONG TIME AGO...SOME MEMBERS OF MY PARTY WANTED TO MEET MY WIFE.
WE ALL WENT OUT TO EAT TOGETHER.

...SO THAT WAS IT.
BUT I WAS MAD, LIKE YOU'D FIGURE.

IS SHE OKAY?
NO WORRIES THERE.
I GOT A LETTER FROM THE ONE WHO TOOK HER IN.

SHE DIDN'T EVEN TELL YOU WHY!? THAT'S SO MEAN!
YOUR CURIOSITY'S SHOWING.

IF I WERE YOUR WIFE...
HUH?

THIS IS JUST A GUESS, BUT...

HMM...

...I'D BE PRETTY HAPPY WITH THE LIFE WE HAD.
I'D REALLY WANT YOU TO TAKE A MORE STABLE JOB, AND YET...
THIS IS JUST A GUESS, RIGHT?

...YOU WOULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR WORK...
YOU BEING YOU...
...AND SOMETIMES YOU'D COME HOME BADLY HURT.

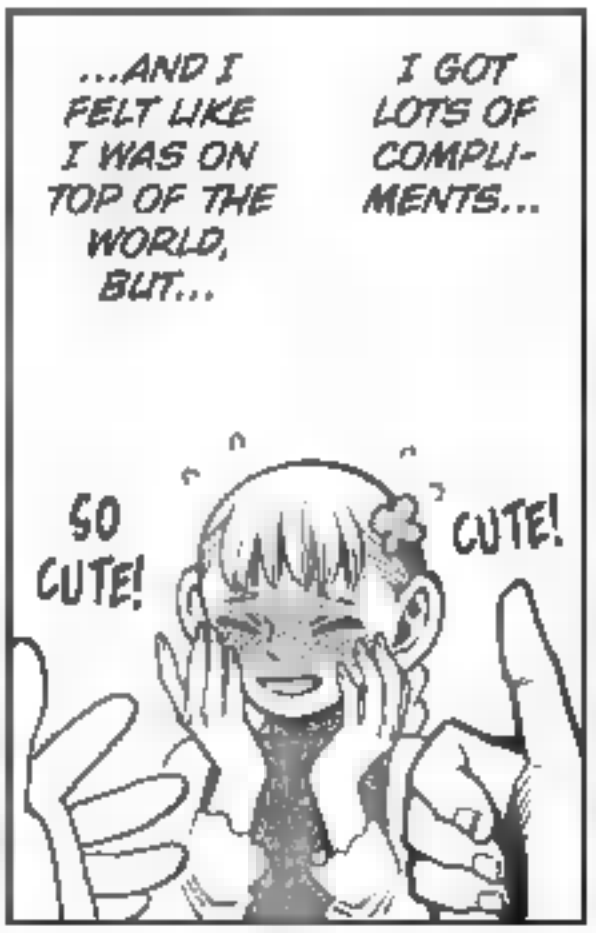
I'D NEVER KNOW WHEN MY HUSBAND WAS COMING HOME, AND I'D WORRY ABOUT HIM...
...WHILE I SPENT MY DAYS DOING CHORES AND CARING FOR OUR CHILD.

THEN I MET YOUR WORK FRIENDS.

I FOUND A SITTER AND DRESSED IN MY VERY BEST...
I WAS SO EXCITED.
...WHILE YOU COMPLAINED ABOUT HOW LONG I WAS TAKING.

THEN ONE DAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU TELL ME YOU WANT TO INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR FRIENDS FROM WORK.

...I ALSO FOUND OUT HOW MY HUSBAND TALKED ABOUT ME TO HIS FRIENDS...
HOW IS SHE A KLUTZ, HUH?


...AND I FELT LIKE I WAS ON TOP OF THE WORLD, BUT...
I GOT LOTS OF COMPLI-MENTS...
SO CUTE!
CUTE!

I HADN'T EATEN OUT IN AGES, AND THE FOOD WAS DELICIOUS.
SINCE YOU INTRODUCED US, I'M SURE THEY'RE GOOD PEOPLE.

...I FELT LIKE I WAS TOO BORING FOR YOU.

...WHEN I SAW YOU CHATTING WITH YOUR FRIENDS AFTER A FEW DRINKS...
...OR SMILING COMPANION-ABLY WITH A PRETTY LADY FROM YOUR PARTY...

CHILCHUCK IS BASHFUL, SO NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE LOVED ME, HE'D NEVER TELL ME SO.
I UNDER-STOOD THAT, BUT... ON THAT DAY...

EVEN IF I ASKED, I KNEW YOU'D NEVER TELL ME, SO...
...FINALLY, I...
...TESTED YOU.

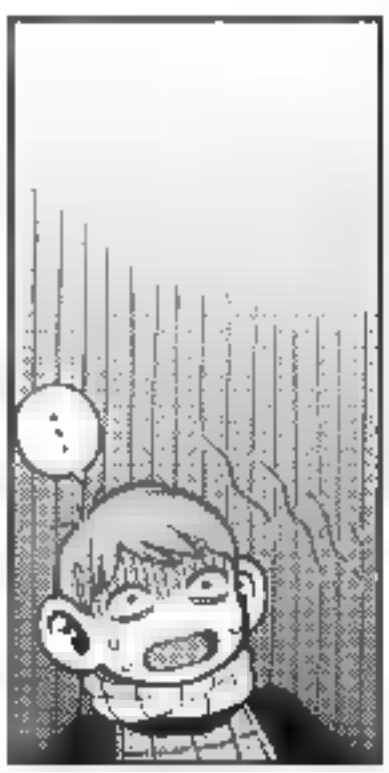
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I DOUBTED YOUR LOVE.

—ANYWAY, THAT'S HOW I THINK IT WENT.
WELL!?

WOW.
IT'S LIKE YOU WATCHED IT ALL HAPPEN!

UU RK!
GRK!
AND YET, THIS HAPPENED.
SO THEN YOU DECIDED NEVER TO TALK ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL LIFE.

GRK!
YOU TOLD YOUR FRIENDS YOU WERE MARRIED FROM THE START...
...JUST TO HEAD OFF ANY TROUBLE WITH THEM, RIGHT?


...

IT TURNS UP IN EVERY STORY AND SCRAP OF GOSSIP!
I DON'T!
BUT THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!

Y...
YOU...
H-HOW DID... YOU KNOW...?

GOGO
(RUSTLE)

OH.
YOU DROPPED YOUR SANDWICH?

TAKE THIS.
YOU LOST BLOOD, SO YOU NEED CALORIES.

MOGU CAMCHD もぐ…
もぐ もぐ
MOGU MOGU

AH!
THIS ONE HAS SYRUP IN IT, HUH?

HNFF!

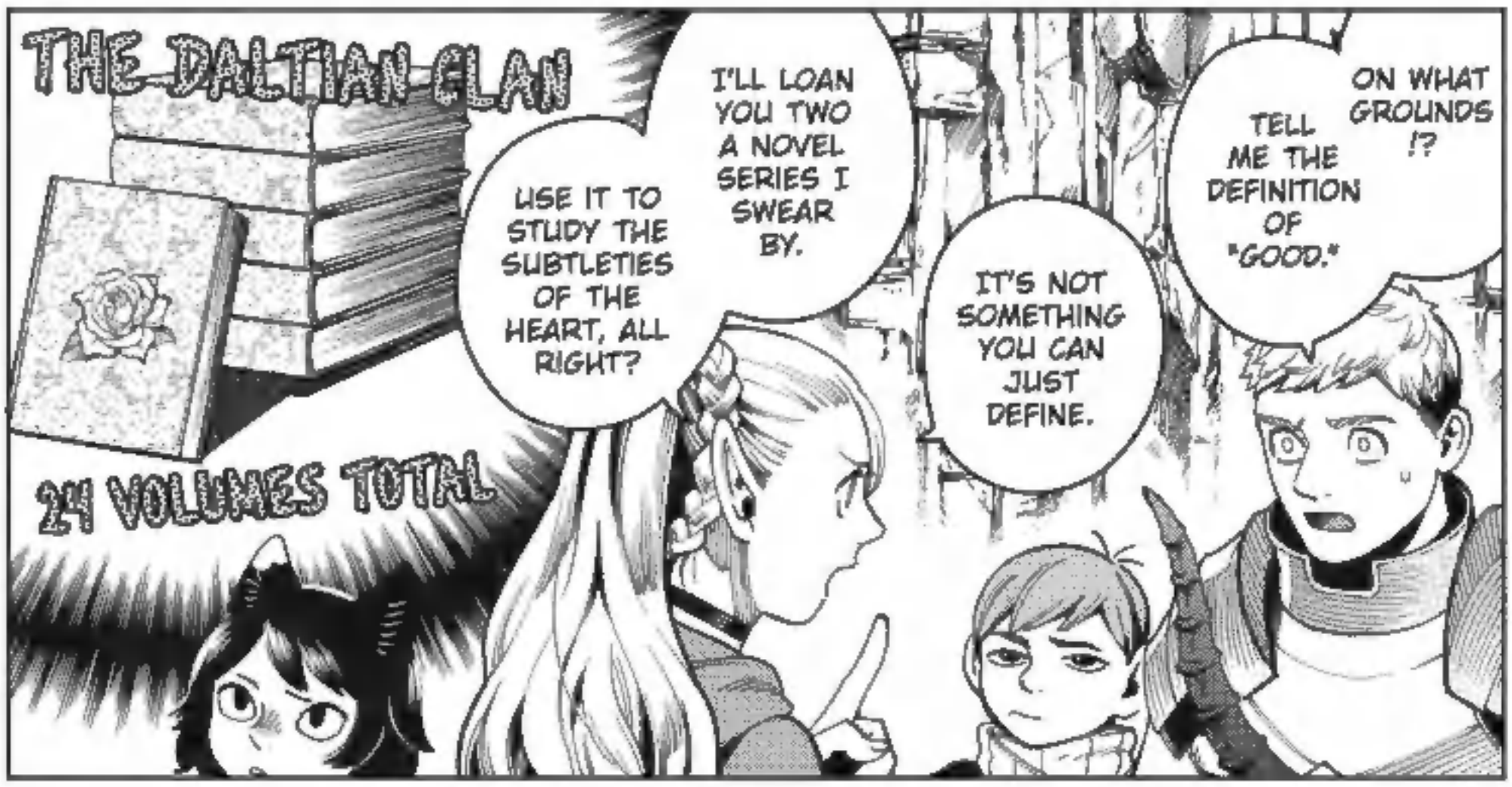
IT'S ACTUALLY NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT.

HOW IS IT?

THAT'S NOT IT.
ALTHOUGH CHILCHUCK IS DEFINITELY GOOD.

HMM...

DOES "GOOD" MEAN NOT BEING UNFAITHFUL?
THE BICORN DECIDED CHILCHUCK WAS "A GOOD HUSBAND" AND ATTACKED HIM.


THE DALTIAN CLAN
24 VOLUMES TOTAL
USE IT TO STUDY THE SUBTLETIES OF THE HEART, ALL RIGHT?
I'LL LOAN YOU TWO A NOVEL SERIES I SWEAR BY.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST DEFINE.
TELL ME THE DEFINITION OF "GOOD."
ON WHAT GROUNDS !?

HAAH...

AFTER ALL, YOU'VE GOT THE BICORN'S ENDORSE-MENT!

I'M SURE YOUR WIFE WILL BE THRILLED.
THEN, ONCE WE'RE BACK UP TOP, TAKE HER SOME FLOWERS.

ALTHOUGH I DOUBT REALITY WILL PLAY OUT AS WELL AS THE STORIES DO.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.

HA HA HA!

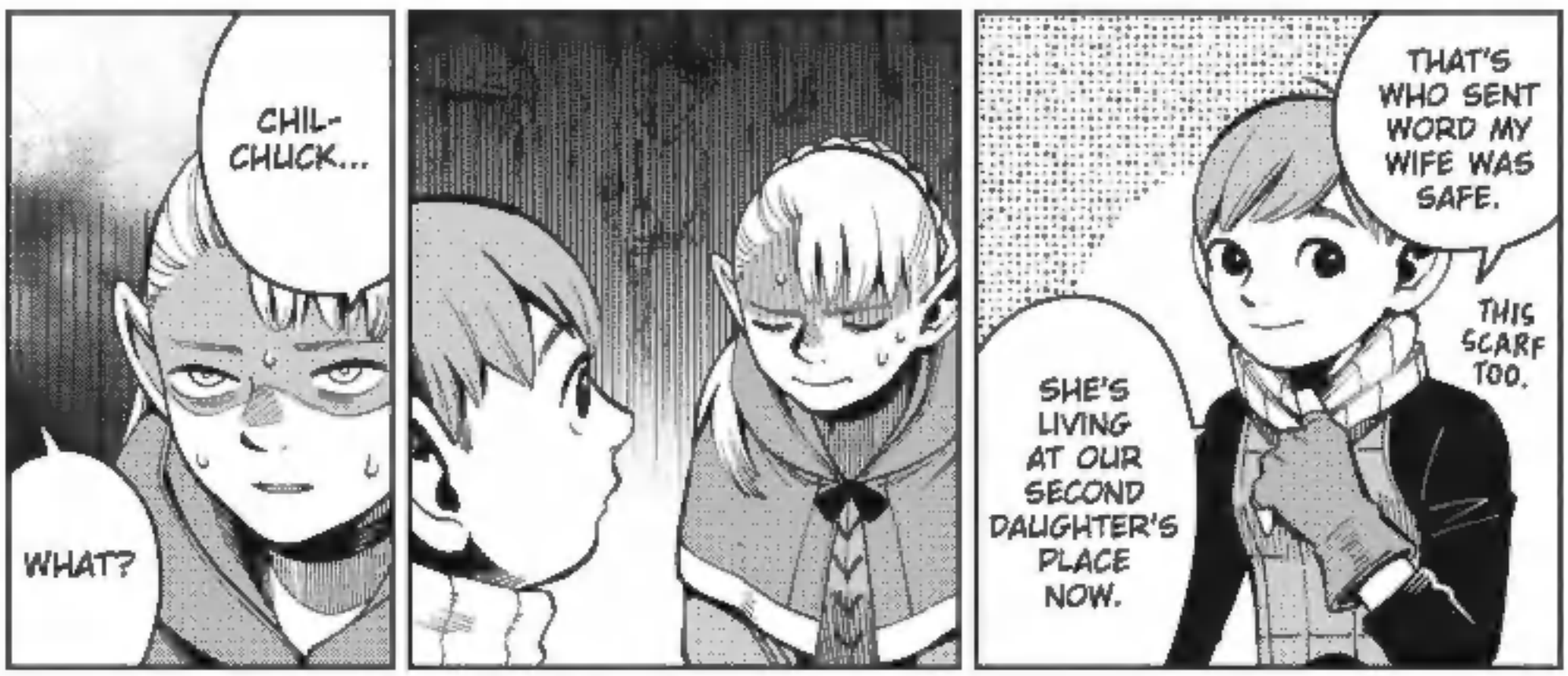
HEH!

.....
YOUR LITLE GIRL'S AT HER CUTEST NOW, RIGHT?
I BET SHE MISSES HER DADDY.

MY "LITTLE GIRL" IS GROWN AND OUT ON HER OWN.
WHAT'S THAT?
POI (TOSS)

YOUR DEDUC-TIONS ARE IMPRES-SIVE.
YOU GOT ONE THING DEAD WRONG, THOUGH.

HOW OLD IS "GROWN"?
FOURTEEN FOR US.
HUH. IT'S SIXTEEN WHERE I'M FROM.
TALK ABOUT SHORT CYCLES...
RIGHT. ALL THREE OF THEM.
OUT ON HER OWN!?
THREE!?


CHIL-CHUCK...
WHAT?
THAT'S WHO SENT WORD MY WIFE WAS SAFE.
THIS SCARF TOO.
SHE'S LIVING AT OUR SECOND DAUGHTER'S PLACE NOW.

I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU COUGH UP ALL OF IT!
YOU'RE STILL HIDING THINGS, AREN'T YOU!!?
NO, THAT WAS IT!

To be continued...